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PUNJAB ADMINISTRATION REPORT

1903-1904

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PUNJAB ADMINISTRATION REPORT,

1903-1904.

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REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION

OF THE

PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

FOR

1903-1904.

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1903-04

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REPORT

ON THE

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PUNJAB AND ITS DEPENDENCIES

FOR

1903-04.

PART I.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

[The "year" throughout this report is not invariably the financial year ending 31st March 1904. At the heading of each chapter, with the exception of Chapter I, a reference is given to the departmental reports which contain details of the subjects dealt with. The "year" of the present report is for each such subject the year mentioned in the tiile of the departmental report so referred to. In general it may be said that the "year" in Chapters I, IV, V, VII, VIII and IX means the financial year ending 31st March, in Chapter II it is the revenue year ending 30th September 1903, and in Chapters III and VI it is the calendar year ending 31st December 1903.

The Administration Report for 1901-02 was a decennial report and as such contained many sections of permanent interest to which reference may be necessary in order to understand the working of the Administration; under the orders of the Government of India these sections are not repeated each year, but a reference is given to them in their place in the several chapters of Part II of this report.

Except where otherwise stated, the Punjab in this report refers to the Punjab as at present constituted.]

CHANGES IN THE ADMINISTRATION.

1. Sir Charles Rivaz, K.C.S.I., held the office of Lieutenant-Governor throughout the year. Personnel of the Administration.

2. There have been no noteworthy changes in the Administration during the year. Changes in the Administration.

NATIVE STATES.

3. During November 1903 the Phulkián States and Baháwalpur were visited by His Excellency the Viceroy, who while at Baháwalpur, where His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was also present, invested the Nawáb with the full powers of a Ruling Chief. This State was thereafter included in the Phulkián States Agency, which continues to be under the charge of Major Relations with Tributary States.

Dunlop-Smith, C.I.E. Mahárája Bhupendra Singh, the minor Chief of Patiála, has made good progress with his studies and is developing an intelligent interest in politics and contemporary events. He has, since the close of the year, entered the Aitchison College, Lahore, to complete his education. Rája Bhowáni Sen, whose succession to the Chiefship of the Mandi Sate was noted in last year's report, was formally installed on the gaddi by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, who specially visited Mandi for the purpose. The Rája is being instructed in his duties of government under the guidance of Mr. T. Millar, who has been appointed Superintendent of the State for two years. Rája Shám Singh of Chamba abdicated voluntarily in favour of his brother Mián Bhure Singh. Excellent progress was made in the Settlement operations in the Patiála State, which are under the control of Major Popham Young. In the autumn of 1903 new assessments were announced in the tahsíls of Bhatinda and Narwána. The financial condition of this State is now good.

Plague in Native States.

4. As is the case in the history of the British districts, so in the Native States, the plague epidemic raged during the year with greater virulence and over a wider area than in the previous year. The calamity was particularly severe in the States of Patiála, Jínd, Nábha, Kapurthala and Máler Kotla. The people in Jínd and Nábha are reported to be prompt to evacuate their houses on the first appearance of plague, and in Patiála to be less suspicious than formerly at the efforts of the authorities to assist them.

Agricultural conditions in Native States.

5. The agricultural conditions in the Native States were favourable, except in the Chamba State. In Baháwalpur the autumn harvest was the best that has been reaped for years. An extension of three of the existing canals in this State is now being carried on and will result when completed in an appreciable increase in the cultivated area.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Effect of plague on labour.

6. For the first time the severity of the epidemic of plague caused an appreciable scarcity of labour. This difficulty was experienced especially in the early part of this year in the Shahpur District and in the Jhelum Colony; it was felt also elsewhere, but not to such an extent as to affect agricultural operations to a serious extent. The conduct of the people in face of this calamity, with the one exception of a riot in the Jullundur District, has continued good. The material prosperity of the people has been improved by recent good harvests.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Land Revenue.

7. The history of the Revenue Administration of the Province is brought under review in Part II of this report up to the end of September 1903 and relates to a period antecedent to that dealt with in the account given of the weather and crops in Chapter IV. The weather conditions which prevailed during the period on which the revenue of the year depended are described on pages 50 and 51 of the Administration Report for 1902-03. The seasons had not been entirely favourable and had resulted in a considerable failure of crops, especially in the Delhi Division. The worst sufferer was Hissar. Rohtak and Karnál suffered in the same way, but less severely. Only 34 per cent. of the land revenue demand of Hissar could be collected, and

some trouble in collecting was experienced in the Muktsar and Ferozepore Tahsíls, which have apparently not entirely recovered as yet from the demoralising effect of the famine years. Under these conditions the necessity of making considerable suspensions of land revenue was at once perceived. The actual suspensions made amounted to over 12 lakhs, and the remissions of land revenue were over a lakh. The greater part of the remissions, however, were composed of sums remitted under the general orders for the remission of famine arrears. These adverse circumstances did not seriously affect the Province as a whole, and no general difficulty occurred in realizing the revenue demand of the year. The net result shows a further expansion of the revenue of the Province, chiefly under the heading of fluctuating land revenue, and a very large temporary increase in miscellaneous land revenue from the proceeds of the auction of land and shop sites in the colonies. Recent revised orders regarding the policy of Government in the matter of suspensions and remissions are noticed in Chapter II and should result in greater promptness and more uniformity in dealing with cases of hardship due to calamities of season. It is satisfactory to note that the system of fluctuating assessment introduced into the Multán District at the recent settlement is now appreciated and that the system has also found favour elsewhere. The method of allowing for failed crops on the Jhelum and Chenab Canals, which is another extension of the principle of fluctuating assessments, has been simplified by the adoption of what has been called the four-anna eight-anna rule, which is based on the principle of the avoidance of over-refinement in estimating the amount of deterioration of a crop, and of generosity in remissions in the case of a really bad crop. The question whether this simplification of method should be extended to certain other canals is under consideration.

The Land Alienation Act.

8. It may be safely asserted that the Land Alienation Act has achieved its main object of placing material checks on alienations of land without unduly impairing agricultural credit and without causing any substantial depreciation in the value of land. At the same time it has had a highly beneficial effect in the direction of curbing the natural proneness of the Punjábi zamíndár to habits of profuse extravagance. One of the most satisfactory features of the present year's report on the subject is the fact that the money-lender is beginning to abandon his attitude of aloofness from all money-lending operations and that loans under the forms of mortgage permitted by the Act are becoming more common.

Surveys.

9. Good progress continues to be made by the Revenue Officers in demarcating Government waste and in laying down fixed boundaries under the Riverain Boundary Act. In order to complete this work, a riverain survey was commenced by the Survey of India (No. 18 Party) along the riverain tracts on the Chenab, Sutlej and Indus Rivers, where fixed boundaries have recently been laid down. The regular programme of operations of the Survey of India is also being continued. Good progress was made during the year in the surveys in various stages of completion in the Simla Hill States and in the districts of Montgomery, Lahore, Amritsar and Multán.

Settlements now in progress.

10. Six Settlement parties were engaged in settlement work in the Punjab during the year, *viz.*, at Muzaffargarh, Sirsa, Attock, Jhang, Háfizabad and Ráwalpindi, and three parties, whose work is also supervised by the

Settlement Commissioner of the Punjab, were employed in the North-West Frontier Province, *viz.*, in the old Dera Ismail Khan District, which now falls partly in the Punjab and partly in the new Province, Kohat and Hazára. The settlements of Muzaffargarh, Sirsa and the Punjab Tahsíls of the old Dera Ismail Khan District were completed during the year.

Chenab Canal Colony.

11. Some small extensions of the Chenab Canal commanding about 81,500 acres were in progress during the year. But some of this land is either not culturable or decidedly inferior, and colonists from outside are beginning to reject the land now offered to them, although it is readily taken up by those on the spot. Moreover, the canal has at present as much land to irrigate as it can manage. In short, although the allotted area was increased during the year by 72,268 acres, the limits of colonization on this canal with its present supply have practically been reached. A new district of Lyallpur comprising the greater part of the colony has recently been sanctioned, but the work of the Colonization Officer cannot on that account be dispensed with, as the technical work of dealing with the colonists, holding as they do on many different tenures with very diverse conditions, will take the whole time of the officer dealing with it. The internal development of this colony has been a work very arduous, but intensely interesting to those who have been engaged in it; and the experience gained has been most useful in dealing with the analogous case of the Jhelum Canal Colony. Large grain marts now exist in the colony, notably at Lyallpur, Gojra, Sángla, Chiniot Road and Toba Tek Singh. A much needed extension of the railway system and of road communication is likely to be a feature of the history of the colony in the near future. The total exports from the stations on the existing line of railway within the colony, in 1902, amounted to 418,472 tons, and this figure must now be considerably exceeded.

Jhelum Colony.

12. Colonization operations in the Jhelum Colony have been pushed on with much energy. Considerable progress has been made in the work of allotment. An ample number of applicants for grants on horse-breeding conditions have been secured without difficulty. The high price realized for the sale of shop sites at Sargodha and Bhalwál shows what an excellent reputation our colonies and their administration have achieved with the general public.

Court of Wards.

13. The new Punjab Court of Wards Act (No. II, Punjab, 1903) came into force on the 25th June 1903. The Financial Commissioner now occupies the position of Court of Wards for the whole Province instead of the Deputy Commissioners severally for the wards within their jurisdiction. There are now 44 estates under the control of the Court of Wards as against 43 in the year 1902. Most of the wards' estates were encumbered with debt when brought under the management of the Court. After defraying current expenses, including the payment of land revenue, cost of management and a proper provision for the maintenance of the wards and their households, the Court was able to pay off over 2 lakhs of debts during the year. An examination of the reports on the administration of the wards' estates would be instructive to those who maintain that the revenue assessments in the Punjab are excessive.

LEGISLATION.

14. The only Act which was passed during the year that requires mention is the Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards which is mentioned above. The efficiency of management of wards' estates has been much improved by the passing of this Act.

Act II, Punjab, 1903.

POLICE.

15. Mr. C. Brown, C.I.E., who held the office of Inspector-General of Police and conducted the Police administration of the Province during the year with much efficiency, has now retired. The reports for the year on the Police administration and on the administration of criminal justice, apart from the fluctuations in crime, which to a large extent depend on fortuitous circumstances—the agricultural conditions, the prevalence of plague and its attendant disorganization of village life and the like—is satisfactory owing to the evidence, which it affords, of harmonious working between the different branches of the administration which are engaged in the prevention, detection and punishment of crime. The report also contains indications of progress in the Police force in regard to honesty, discipline, enlistment of public confidence, and vigilance in the prevention of crime. Rewards among the Police have been more freely distributed than in previous years; while departmental punishments have been rigorously resorted to when necessary to maintain the discipline of the force. An increase of 20 punitive posts marks the activity of the Police in measures for the prevention of crime. These measures have had an excellent effect. The decrease in terrorism which the reports of the last three years have disclosed is probably largely due to the prompt use of this effective remedy. A satisfactory decrease in serious crime also occurred during the year, with the regrettable exception of a rise in murders in Ráwalpindi. There is a greater tendency observable among the courts to deal adequately with habitual offenders. The efficiency of the Identification Bureau contributes largely to the certainty of identification of old offenders and to their adequate punishment. There is unfortunately some lack of co-operation observable in many districts on the part of Zaildárs, Lambardárs and members of the village community. This subject is under the consideration of Government. The relations between the British Police and those of Native States were cordial.

Police Administration.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

16. In the Administration Report of last year reference was made to the fact that Magistrates are often much too lenient to habitual offenders. As above noted, the co-operation of the different Departments, *i. e.*, of the Police and Judicial Departments, in the interests of the suppression of serious crime has become more effective and has already been referred to as one of the satisfactory features of the year's report. The tendency to undue leniency has been corrected. The Criminal Administration Report of the year is much taken up with the burden of work which falls on Magistrates, much of which is due to vexatious, false and frivolous complaints, the abuse of the rights of appeal, and the unnecessary resort to applications for revision. This state of affairs is a serious evil; and as it is due to the inveterate and chronic litigiousness of the people, it is not easy to deal with in all its aspects. Much of

Criminal case work excessive.

this unnecessary litigation can, however, be stifled at its commencement by the exercise of the power of dismissal *in limine* under Section 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

PRISONS.

Punishment of crime.

17. The present accommodation in the jails in the Punjab is not sufficient to meet requirements when the jail population happens to be above the average. Overcrowding has occurred lately on several occasions. The project of a new Central Jail in the southern part of the Province will be taken in hand as soon as the question of a site has been definitely settled, and will, it is hoped, do much to remove the evil of overcrowding which at present exists. The health of the jail population has been wonderfully good. The few cases of plague which have occurred in the jails have been promptly dealt with, and the disease has not spread. The discipline and efficiency of the jail establishment was very satisfactory during the year. The jail report has a very distinct interest to those who are engaged in supervising the administration of criminal justice, and enables them to correct certain tendencies observable on the part of the courts. We learn from it that the classification of criminals by the courts as habituals or casuals is not made with sufficient care; that sufficient use has not been made of the Reformatory School at Delhi for juvenile offenders, nor of the provisions of the law for dealing with first offenders; and, on the other hand, that deterrent sentences and sentences of transportation for life have been more frequently awarded in the case of the habitual and confirmed criminal. The report contains an interesting discussion on the efficacy of the mark system as an incentive to good conduct, and it gives reasons for concluding, if it be granted that the system of identification by means of finger prints is good, and its application thorough, that the proportion of convicts who return to jail after a first experience of it is comparatively small, and that the majority of the jail population are casual offenders, not disposed habitually to lead a criminal life.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Civil case work in courts of first instance.

18. The decrease in the number of civil suits noted in the Administration Report last year has been maintained. The Land Alienation Act has proved a powerful factor in reducing litigation of a certain kind. A marked drop has occurred in suits brought by money-lenders against agriculturists and in suits to establish a right of pre-emption. The amount realized by the execution of decrees, 24 per cent., is still disappointing, although it shows a slight improvement on last year. The disposals of civil case work by the courts of first instance have fallen far short of last year's figures, and notwithstanding the drop in institutions the pending file at the end of the year was not appreciably less. The majority of these cases are disposed of by Munsifs, who are solely employed on civil case work.

District Judges and the Chief Court.

19. The arrangement, introduced last year, to relieve certain District Judges of all work but their civil judicial work has proved satisfactory, and has been extended to some other districts. The Chief Court have not derived so much relief as was expected from the extension of the jurisdiction of Single Benches. The necessity for temporarily strengthening the Court to enable it to clear off its arrears is admitted, and it is hoped that it will be possible to provide adequate assistance before long.

REGISTRATION.

20. The statistics relating to the registration of documents indicate a revival of business, the signs of which were noticed last year. This increase in compulsory registrations is fairly attributable to the fact that the Land Alienation Act is becoming better understood. It is particularly noticeable in the case of mortgages. As already remarked, the money-lender is beginning to abandon his attitude of aloofness from his old client, the agriculturist, and to take advantage of the forms of mortgage permitted by the Act. Much of the money-lending business, however, appears to be in transactions between the agriculturists themselves, in which the professional money-lender has no share.

Effect of Land Alienation Act.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

21. The history of District Boards, financially, has been one of recuperation from the severe strain caused by the famines and plague. Otherwise there is little to note. The practical administration of District Boards is limited by the fact that some of the most important objects to which their funds are devoted are carried into effect partly or altogether departmentally by the officers of Government. The actual work on District Boards is also for the most part carried out by the official members. The general working of the Boards has been satisfactory. The elective system has not in this Province proved suited to obtain the best results in the existing circumstances either of Municipalities or District Boards. The attitude of the electors in the case of District Boards has for the most part been one of apathy, and as regards membership a nomination is much preferred to election. In regard to Municipalities the case is somewhat different. The interest of public work on Sub-Committees or otherwise in the neighbourhood of their own homes, and the influence which a seat on the Town Council gives is sufficient to attract members of a certain class. But gentlemen who would be useful members are often unwilling to stand for election if there is likely to be a contest, and the mental attitude of leaving things as they are and following the course of least resistance by re-electing the old member is characteristic of the East, and appears to have a share in the election results recorded during the year.

Local Boards and Municipalities.

AGRICULTURE, WEATHER AND CROPS.

22. The weather conditions in the early months of 1903 were favourable for the preparation of the land for the staple autumn crops, and an excellent monsoon, well sustained and distributed, resulted in a well-matured autumn crop. The spring crop of the present year 1904 was exceptionally favourable, and resulted in a record wheat harvest both as regards area and yield. The epidemic of plague reached its greatest virulence this year at the time of the harvesting of the spring crops, and was disastrous in its results in the Shahpur District and in the new Jhelum Colony. In the Province as a whole scarcity of labour due to the plague was undoubtedly felt, but did not lead to any appreciable loss in grain, although reaping and harvesting operations were greatly prolonged. The total outturn of wheat is estimated at over three million tons. This crop, which is the most important crop of the Province, was estimated at 118·6 of the normal.

Harvests of the year.

Agricultural stock.

23. The quinquennial census of cattle was taken in February 1904. As the result of the period of famine years, which have intervened since the past census, the increase in cattle has not been so great as it would have been, but there has been a small satisfactory advance throughout the Province, and a very large increase of cattle in the areas to which canal irrigation has been extended. Very valuable work has been done during the year by the Civil Veterinary Department both in the treatment of epidemic disease and in the scientific investigation of disease among cattle. During the year the separation of the Army Remount Department from the Civil Veterinary Department has been completed, and the latter department has been reorganized and strengthened as an agency for dealing with the improvement of the breed of cattle and the prevention and cure of disease.

Agricultural improvement.

24. In the experimental farm at Lyallpur special attention has been given to the improvement of wheat and cotton.

FORESTS.

Forest management.

25. Some forest areas in the Shahpur, Lahore and Multán Districts have been made over to the Civil Department for cultivation in consequence of canal extensions and the requirements of the new colonies. Twelve square miles of the Shahpur Kandi Unclassed Forests have been made a Protected Forest after the preparation of the record of rights. It is proposed to reserve 15 square miles in Montgomery, now included in the Unclassed Forests, as a reserve required for the Sillahdár Camel Corps. The number of forest offences committed during the year was rather above the average. The majority of the cases are compounded under the Act. A large increase in the number of forest fires occurred in the Ráwalpindi Division The amount of timber removed from the forests during the year amounted to 4,400,000 cubic feet as compared with a little over 3,000,000 cubic feet in 1902-03. This increase occurred chiefly in the Chamba and Kángra Divisions. On the other hand, there was a large decrease compared with the previous year in the amount of fuel removed from the forests This decrease is attributable to difficulties in the labour supply at Chánga Mánga and to the stoppage in the sales of fuel in lands about to be colonised. This scarcity of labour, which was due to plague near the plantation and to the demand for labour on canal works elsewhere, prevented the fellings prescribed by the working plan of this plantation from being completed. With this exception deviations from the working plans of the different forests were few and unimportant. The year was a successful one from the revenue point of view. The net surplus revenue amounted to nearly 7 lakhs. There was a good demand for timber, and higher prices were realized than in the previous year.

TRADE.

Total Imports and Exports.

26. The total value of the trade of the Province during the year was £19,840,000 sterling; the imports exceeded the exports by £285,000. The trade of the Province, though subject to seasonal fluctuations, is expanding. The exports have increased in consequence of the fairly good harvests of the year 1903, but the above figures carry the record of trade statistics only up to the 31st March 1904, and do not include the export trade resulting from the bumper harvest last spring. The improvement in communications

with Karáchi has greatly increased the importance of this port to the Punjab, of which it is geographically the natural outlet. An increase in the export of raw cotton is a satisfactory feature of the export trade, and it is to be hoped that the endeavours now being made to improve the quality and out-turn of this staple will be successful and cause this trade to be further developed.

Trans-Frontier Trade.

27. The trans-frontier trade of the Punjab, since the separation of the North-West Frontier Province, is almost entirely confined to interchange of commodities with Kashmir proper and Ladakh; and the Kashmir trade accounts for 94 per cent. of the whole. Ladakh takes chiefly piece-goods and supplies raw wool and charas. Kashmir trades in all commodities; the demand for European piece-goods, leather, metals and petroleum is considerable, and the country supplies raw hides, drugs and charas, grain and fruits.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Increased expenditure on Public Works.

28. It is a matter of congratulation that the Local Government has been able during the last three years to give much larger grants for Public Works. A long series of hard years and impoverished finances had seriously crippled the development of the Province in all works of improvement, and every department was to a certain extent starved. There was therefore much leeway to make good, and the increased expenditure on Provincial Civil Works is the index of the progress made,—7 lakhs in 1900-01, 14 lakhs in 1901-02, 20 lakhs in 1902-03, and 23 lakhs in the present year, apart from expenditure on repairs. The outlay during the current year was spread over all departments,—Civil, Judicial, Jails, Police, Medical and Education. The extension of the colonies and the increase of population over large tracts of country which were once waste lands has necessarily involved a large outlay on public offices, which calls for no remark. The extension and development of the system of roads in the colonies and in areas which have come within the reach of the large perennial canals is now receiving the careful attention of the Public Works Department. The progress made in works connected with the sanitary improvement of towns in the Province has been satisfactory.

IRRIGATION.

Irrigated area.

29. All the perennial canals with the exception of the Sirhind, which was stationary, exhibit an increase in the irrigated area compared with the average of the previous three years. The inundation canals also experienced a very favourable season owing to the late and well-sustained monsoon, and gave good results. The total area irrigated by all the Punjab Canals, Imperial, Provincial and Native States, amounted to 6,390,334 acres. About one-fourth of the crops in the Punjab are matured with the assistance of canal irrigation. The Chenab Canal now irrigates two million acres, which is more than the area irrigated by the Bári Doáb and the Sirhind taken together. The head-works of the Jhelum Canal were completed during the year, and the main lines of the canal were also completed, while considerable progress was made towards the completion of the Major and Minor Distributary System.

Income from canals.

30. The capital outlay on the canals classed as Major Productive Works amounts to £7,127,196 sterling, on which interest at 12 per cent. was earned as the net result of the year's working after deducting expenditure from income. The most paying canal is the Chenab, which gave a revenue of 23½ per cent. The inundation canals show good results owing to the favourable and late monsoon. All the canals earned over 7 per cent., except the Jhelum, which is not yet in full working order.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Total Revenue and Expenditure of the Punjab.

31. The receipts increased from all sources except Salt, Income Tax, Tribute and Jails. The decrease under Salt amounts to 10 lakhs and under Income Tax to nearly 3 lakhs. The sales of Punjab rock salt considerably exceeded those of the previous year, and the falling off in the salt revenue is the result not of diminished consumption, but of the reduction in the duty which took place with effect from the 18th March 1903. The decrease in the Income Tax is the result of the policy of raising the minimum taxable income from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000. Important increases of revenue occurred under the following heads of income:—Land Revenue, 20 lakhs; Irrigation, 16 lakhs; Local Rates, 4 lakhs. The favourable character of the harvests and the extension of canal irrigation and revision of Settlements account for the satisfactory state of the Provincial finances as indicated by these figures. The total income amounted to 666 lakhs of rupees, compared with 632 lakhs of rupees last year. The expenditure was increased by 15 lakhs and amounted to 365 lakhs excluding expenditure on the Military, Railways, Post Office, Telegraph, and Municipal, and Capital expenditure on canals. The cost of the General Administration was less than in the previous year owing to the fact that the Delhi Darbár charges no longer figure in the accounts. Settlement operations account for an increase in the Land Revenue charges. The special measures for the suppression of plague adopted in 1902-03 having been discontinued, the expenditure under the heading of Medical Charges was reduced. A satisfactory feature in the year's accounts is that it has been possible to provide for the growing requirements of the education of the country and to make a very considerable increase to the expenditure on public works. The assistance which the Government of India has rendered to the Provincial finances by making special assignments to meet the deficits caused by extensive remissions of land revenue, due to the late famines, and to provide funds for special objects, must be here acknowledged. This assistance, combined with the satisfactory increase of revenue recorded in this report, has resulted in a balance at the credit of the Provincial Government at the close of the year of 32 lakhs of rupees.

Local Funds and Municipal Revenues.

32. As in the case of the Land Revenue, Local Rate collections both of the current year and of former years have been much facilitated by the favourable agricultural conditions, and the income of District Boards has consequently benefited. Extraordinary expenditure on plague measures has also ceased to be a drain on Local finances. The result has been that District Boards have been able to repay to a large extent the loans which had been temporarily advanced by Government to meet deficits caused by suspensions and remissions of revenue, famine charges and plague expenditure; and more than this, after incurring a largely increased expenditure on roads

and communications, the closing balance at the credit of District Boards exceeded the opening balance by nearly a lakh of rupees. Municipal finances have also shared in the improved financial conditions. The closing balance at the credit of Municipalities was Rs. 1,60,000 more than the opening balance. Collections from Rates and Taxes improved by over $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, nearly the whole of which was accounted for by Octroi collections. The total expenditure of Municipalities was increased by Rs. 63,000. Considerable activity has been displayed in the larger towns in projects of drainage, water-supply, hospitals and street-lighting, and it is satisfactory that nearly the whole of the increased expenditure was incurred on objects connected with the public health and convenience.

VITAL STATISTICS.

33. The birth-rate of the Province has fluctuated considerably during the past five years in consequence of the disturbing causes of famines and excessive autumn fevers. The high birth-rate of 46·2 per thousand, which was reached in 1899 after a healthy autumn, was followed by very low birth-rates in the two following years, in consequence of the famine and severe malaria. Since then the rate has been fairly constant at 42 or 43 per thousand. This year it was 42·9 per thousand. The effect of the plague in reducing the birth-rate is only appreciable in small areas where the virulence of the disease has been excessive. The year 1903 stands out for its extreme unhealthiness. The Punjab was the unhealthiest Province in India. The mortality rate of 49 per thousand was 21 per thousand over that recorded in a healthy year, such as 1899. Almost every disease shows an increased mortality rate: fevers, small-pox, respiratory diseases, and especially plague, were all more fatal than in the previous year. Births and Deaths.

34. The highest mortality from plague during the year 1903 occurred in the districts of Gujránwála, Amritsar, Jullundur and Lahore. The epidemic reached its height in the months of April and May, a month later than in the previous year. The number of attacks and deaths from plague in the British districts exceeds that of any previous epidemic. Seven new districts became infected during the year, making 21 districts in all where its blighting influence is felt. The results of inoculation vary in different areas; but the inoculated were everywhere much better off than the uninoculated as regards their liability both to attacks of plague and to deaths when attacked. Plague.

35. The deaths caused by fevers numbered 509,307. There was a great increase in the fever rate over the average in several districts in consequence of the abnormal monsoon rains and inundations. Fevers.

MEDICAL RELIEF.

36. The attendance of both in-patients and out-patients at the dispensaries of the Province for 1903 exhibits a substantial increase over that for last year, and surgical operations have also risen in number. There is no doubt that the dispensaries are increasing their hold on the public, and that they are doing a great amount of quiet and efficient work. The Pasteur Institute at Kasauli maintains its efficiency and is freely resorted to by Natives as well as Europeans, and the benefits of the Lunatic Asylum, Lahore, are becoming better known. Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Vaccination.

37. The total number of vaccinations during the year has increased somewhat in spite of the prevalence of plague, and no special remarks are required.

SANITATION.

Sanitation in Towns.

38. Numerous projects for improving the water-supply and sanitation of different towns were sanctioned during the year. Good progress was made in the important works which have been undertaken for the improvement of the sanitation of Simla and in the Water-Works of the Amritsar City.

EDUCATION.

General Progress.

39. The total expenditure on education in British Punjab was Rs. 39,18,070. This total shows an increase over the expenditure last year of Rs. 3,36,607, of which sum Rs. 2,87,193 was provided by the Local Government. The greater part of the increased expenditure was incurred on charges connected with the improvement of Primary Schools. With this object 20 Assistant District Inspectors of Schools were appointed during the year with a view to closer attention to and encouragement of Primary Education. A sum of Rs. 40,000 was paid by the Provincial Government during the year in addition to the sum of Rs. 60,000 paid last year towards the im provement of Primary School buildings under Local Bodies. A further increase of expenditure of about Rs. 5,000 has also been devoted to increasing the staff of teachers at the training institutions in order to provide for a two years' course of training for the teachers engaged in general educational work. The year has therefore been one in which a decided impetus has been given in certain directions, and particularly in the establishment of Primary Schools in rural areas suited to the needs of the masses. The necessity for making strenuous efforts in this direction can be estimated from the fact that the proportion of children of a school-going age, receiving instruction in the various educational institutions in the Punjab and Native States, is still only 12·08 per cent. for boys and 1·72 per cent. for girls. As another step towards freeing the educational system of the Province from the undue bias which it had acquired towards an education suited solely for a clerical career, the Anglo-Vernacular Middle School Examination, to which excessive importance had been attached and which was becoming almost unmanageable from the number of pupils entering for it, has been abolished, and will be replaced by local scholarship examinations at the head-quarters of each district at the time of its annual inspection. Primary Schools have increased during the year both in number and in the attendance of pupils. At present the proportion of boys who complete their education at the primary stage is 31·2 per cent. If the efforts to make the primary course suitable and sufficient in itself for the requirements of the agricultural classes prove successful, this proportion will probably increase in future. As regards the artisan classes, the progress in combining a general with a technical education at the Railway Technical School, which is becoming more popular every year, is very encouraging, and similar schools exist also at Amritsar, Delhi and Ludhiána. A more purely technical education is obtainable at the Mayo School of Art; while the long list of aided and indigenous schools (detailed in the Education Report of the year), where industrial

classes are held, shows that a growing need is felt and is being gradually met, for technical training. A small decrease occurred in the number of Secondary Schools, but both in Secondary and Primary boys' schools the character and method of teaching has improved considerably. This fortunate result is due to the good influence and superiority of work of the teachers trained at the training institutions, and it is satisfactory to note that during the year over 300 trained teachers left the training institutions to go and work in the different schools of the Province. There was an increase in the number of girls attending Primary and Secondary girls' schools. The standard of education required by the University is maintained at a high level, and the stimulus of competition between the different colleges is a healthy feature of the college life of the Province. Many questions of interest were discussed at the Educational Conference which will ead to further progress. The Educational Exhibition held at the beginning of the year was a new departure and proved useful and stimulating.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

40. Although the number of publications from the Vernacular Press has increased, nothing of permanent literary value has come to notice. The essentially poetical genius of the Punjab peasantry finds expression in numerous popular ballads, songs, proverbs or lampoons, and has no need to look to Persian, Arabic or English for its inspiration. With this natural temperament it is to be hoped that the growth of a genuinely indigenous literature will only be a matter of time. Literature and Press.

Punjab Government Press, Lahore—8-12-04—484.

PART II.

CHAPTER I.

PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

1. Physical Features of the Country, Area and Climate.

(See pages 1—12 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

2. Historical Summary.

(See pages 12—32 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

3. Form of Administration.

(See pages 32—35 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

4. Character of Land Tenures and System of Survey and Settlements.

(See pages 35—43 of the report for the year 1901-02 and the Punjab Settlement Manual.)

5. Civil Divisions of British Territory.

(See page 44 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

6. Details of the last Census—Tribes and Language.

(See pages 45—53 of the report for the year 1901-02.)

7. Changes in the Administration.

The Attock District.

1. The constitution of the Attock District, the consequent re-arrangement of the Ráwalpindi and Jhelum Districts, and of the Ráwalpindi Division took effect from the 1st April 1904, and will be noticed in detail in next year's report.

Area, population and revenue of the Punjab.

2. The area, population and land-revenue collection of the Punjab as now constituted are as follows:—

Area, square miles.	*Population.*	*Land-revenue collection.*
		Rs.
96,704	20,306,252	2,51,41,872

8. Relations with Tributary States and Frontier Affairs.

Political supervision.

3. It was explained in the report for 1901-02 that excluding Baháwalpur, for which there was then no special Political Officer, and Chamba, which was in the political charge of the Commissioner of Lahore, the Native States in

the Punjab were arranged for the purposes of supervision into four groups as follows:—I, the Phulkián States, comprising the States of Patiála, Jínd and Nábha, for which a separate Political Agent was appointed on the 16th January 1901; II, the States of Kapurthala, Mandi, Máler Kotla, Farídkot and Suket in the political charge of the Commissioner of Jullundur; III, the States of Sirmúr, Kalsia, Pataudi, Lohámu and Dujána in the political charge of the Commissioner of Delhi; and IV, the States of Biláspur, Bashahr, Nálagarh, Keonthal and numerous other small States in the Simla Hills, which are in the charge of the Superintendent of Hill States, Simla. This classification, which held good throughout 1902-03, though it ignores the distinction between States which are tributary and those which are not, is a convenient one, and has been maintained. The only change in the classification during the year under report was the inclusion of Baháwalpur with the Phulkián States in the charge of the Political Agent, to which reference will be made in greater detail in the paragraph dealing with Baháwalpur. For the rest the administration of Jínd has been occupying more and more the attention of His Highness the Rája, whilst in Nábha the beneficent rule of Sir Híra Singh has continued to be a blessing to his subjects. In the remaining States, generally speaking, the administration has proceeded smoothly. Full information will be found in the report for 1901-02 as to the area, population, gross revenue and estimated Military forces, including Police, of each State, and the following brief notices give information concerning any special events of importance in the history of particular States during the year.

PATIALA.

Area 5,412 square miles; population, 1,586,030; gross revenue, Rs. 71,46,900; Army and Police, 6,391; race of Chief, Sidhu Ját; age of Chief, 12.

General progress.

4. The progress reported last year in the condition of the Patiála State has been more than maintained, and its finances have at last been restored to a sound footing. There is a reserve of nearly 20 lakhs in the Treasury, the debts of the late Mahárája have been settled, and all outstanding claims adjusted. During the year the suit brought by the State against the firm of William Watson and Co. was compromised on terms most satisfactory to the Darbár, and from the estate of the bankrupt Mr. S. J. Tellery a sum of over Rs. 50,000 was also received. The only matter still under discussion is the transactions between the late Chiefs of Patiála and Dholpur. Side by side with these special cases there has been a steady improvement in the general administration. Reductions have been made in overgrown establishments, in the local troops and in the Police Force, at an expense of over 2 lakhs in compensation and gratuities. A system of account and audit has been thoroughly established in the Civil, Military, Police and Postal Branches of the administration, and some progress has also been made with the audit of the Public Works Department. Much of course remains to be done, but the progress of reform has been sufficiently rapid for the resources of the State, and for the officials at the head of the various Departments. In no branch has better work been done than in the Settlement department. New assessments have been announced in two tahsíls out of 9, and in 4 of the others measurements have been completed.

Personal.

5. An English guardian and tutor has been appointed to His Highness the Mahárája, and it has been arranged that the latter shall go to the Aitchison College in October 1904. Kanwar the Hon'ble Sir Ranbír Singh, K.C.S.I., has been nominated a Member of the Punjab Lagislative Council, and the title of Sardár Bahádur has been conferred on Sardár Prítam Singh, the Commander-in-Chief of the State Forces. The Foreign Minister, Colonel Abdul Majíd Khán, has also received the Silver Kaisar-i-Hind Medal. The State was honoured during the course of the year with a visit from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General.

BAHAWALPUR.

Area, 20,000 square miles; population, 720,877; gross revenue, Rs. 24,00,000; Army and Police, 1,432; race of Chief, Dáúdputra; age of Chief, 21.

Investiture of Nawab with powers of Ruling Chief.

6. On 30th April 1903 the Baháwalpur State was included with the three Phulkián States in the charge of a single Political Agent, under whose guidance the administration was carried on by the Nawáb until November 1903, when His Highness was invested by His Excellency the Viceroy with the full powers of a Ruling Chief. The Nawáb attended the Conference regarding Chiefs' Colleges at Ajmír during the year as the representative of the Punjab. The State is in a sound financial condition, has a reserve of nearly 30 lakhs, and a settlement of its land revenue is drawing to a close.

MANDI.

Area, 1,200 square miles; population, 174,045; gross revenue, Rs. 4,30,000; Army and Police, 691; race of Chief, Rájpút; age of Chief, 21; tribute, Rs. 1,00,000.

Installation of Raja Bhawani Sen.

7. Rája Bhawáni Sen was formally installed as Chief of Mandi by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in October 1903. The Rája has completed his studies at the Aitchison College and is being instructed in the duties of Government under the guidance of an officer deputed as Superintendent from the Punjab Commission for the purpose. The finances of the State are not in a very satisfactory condition and are receiving attention.

KALSIA.

Area, 168 square miles; population, 67,168; gross revenue, Rs. 1,95,809; Army and Police, 172; race of Chief, Ját; age of Chief, 21.

Council of Kalsia.

8. The Sardár came of age during the year and is carrying on the administration with the aid of two councillors under the direct control of the Commissioner. This arrangement, which is now, after some temporary friction, working well, had to be made in the interests of good administration.

BILASPUR.

Area, 448 square miles; population, 41,592; gross revenue, Rs. 1,57,000; Army and Police, 1,021; race of Chief, Rájpút; age of Chief, 31; tribute, Rs. 8,000.

Administrative.

9. In consequence of the Rája's contumacious behaviour it was found necessary to deprive him, for the time being at any rate, of his powers as a Ruling Chief, and to require him to reside out of his State, a suitable allowance being provided for his maintenance. The Rája has accordingly remained at Benares, but has expressed no regret at his conduct, and has made no proposal to comply with the conditions formerly imposed on and accepted by him. In the meantime the State has been placed under management, and the administration has been properly conducted.

CHAMBA.

Area, 3,216 square miles; population, 1,28,005; gross revenue, Rs. 4,57,543; Army and Police, 419; race of Chief, Rájpút; age of Chief, 35; tribute, Rs. 5,000.

Abdication of Raja Sham Singh.

10. The former Chief, Rája Shám Singh, abdicated voluntarily during the year in favour of his brother, Mián Bhúri Singh, C.I.E.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Death of Mazari Chief.

11. There has been absolute peace on the border during the year, and the only item of interest, and that a melancholy one, has been the death of the Hon'ble Nawáb Sir Imám Bakhsh Khán, K.C.I.E., the venerable Chief of the Mazári tribe. His loss has come as a severe blow not only to his own

Tuman, but to the Biloch people as a body, and indeed to the whole Province. His son, Sardár Bahrám Khán, has been installed as Tumandár in his father's place.

9. Condition of the People.

Average prosperity.

12. The year has been on the whole one of average prosperity, except for the prevalence of plague, which is sweeping over the Province with alarming virulence. The subject has been treated in detail in Chapter VI.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the following publications :—

Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year 1st October 1902 to 30th September 1903.

General Report on the Operations of the Survey of India for the year ending 30th September 1903.

Annual Report on the Settlement Operations in the Punjab for the year ending 30th September 1903.

Report of the Operations of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab, for the year ending 30th September 1903.

Annual Report of the working of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act XIII of 1900 for the year ending 30th September 1903.

Annual Reports for the Chenab, Jhelum and Chuniân Colonies for the year ending 30th September 1903.

Report on the Administration of Estates under the Court of Wards in the Punjab for the year ending 30th September 1903.]

10. Realization of the Land Revenue.

Fixed Land Revenue.

13. The land revenue demand is distributed under the 3 heads, fixed, fluctuating and miscellaneous. The total demand of fixed land revenue was for the year under report slightly over 206½ lakhs, and in spite of the not altogether favourable agricultural conditions nearly 194 lakhs, or 93 8 per cent., was recovered. Of the remainder about 11½ lakhs had to be placed under suspension owing to defective rainfall, especially in the ill-fated Rohtak and Hissar Districts of the Delhi Division, and only about a lakh was left unaccounted for. Of this, rather over half represents only nominal arrears, whilst the remainder denotes real deficiencies due to delays in collection. That the fixed land revenue, which stood last year at between 206 and 206½ lakhs, has shown no increase in spite of the resettlement of the district of Muzaffargarh and of the Fázilka Tahsíl of the Ferozepore District and part of the Jhang District, is due to the fact that in Muzaffargarh as in Jhang the tendency has been, as elsewhere in recent years, to substitute a fluctuating for a fixed form of assessment. The balances of fixed land revenue for preceding years now amount to some 16½ lakhs as against nearly 38 lakhs last year. This great clearance has been due mainly to the writing off of famine arrears under the orders of the Government of India.

Suspensions and Remissions of Fixed Land Revenue.

14. It has already been remarked that some 11½ lakhs of rupees have this year had to be put under suspension, and that large sums have been written off as famine arrears. This has not been done lightly, and the discussion, which has accompanied it, and which found voice in the recommendations of the Famine Commission of 1901, has ended not only in the practical relief afforded, but also in considerable modifications in the policy of Government with regard to suspensions and remissions of fixed land revenue. To begin with a small matter, experience in the famine districts has shown that considerable hardship was caused to the zaildárs, on whom so much of famine work falls, by the fact that they drew their emoluments from the revenues of their villages, and were thus temporarily deprived of them when suspensions of the revenue were given. This has been met by authorising the Deputy Commissioner to allow the emoluments to be drawn as a special case from any village in the district whose revenue may be collected. Again, Sec-

tion 30 of the Tenancy Act provides that, if a landlord, before the expiry of the period of suspension, collects any rent, the payment of which has been suspended by the same order as suspended the land revenue, the whole of the revenue suspended in his favour shall become immediately payable by him. The object of this section was to pass on to the tenant cultivator the same indulgence in the payment of his rent as had been shown by Government to his landlord in the matter of his revenue. Experience, however, has shown that the landlord can afford to laugh at this restriction. If he can manage to exact all or the bulk of the rent due to him from all his tenants he can at once meet the revenue demand, whereas if he exacts only from a few and the penalty is enforced against him generally, he becomes entitled to proceed against the rest, and their protection is removed from them. A draft Bill has now been circulated for opinion, with a view to replacing the penalty above referred to by a fine. It is also proposed to take power to suspend or remit rents, even when the land revenue of the same land has not been suspended or remitted, in order to meet the case of wealthy and exacting landlords with poor tenants. Finally, some changes have been made in general policy. These consist in (1) discriminating between times of famine and widespread scarcity on the one hand, and calamities of season within a defined locality, which admit of more detailed treatment, on the other; (2) circumscribing the occasions on which discrimination between rich and poor revenue-payers should be practised; (3) prescribing a danger rate with a view to compelling attention to villages which may need relief; and (4) giving more detailed instructions for the recovery of suspended revenue, including provision for the application of a limit to the amount to be under suspension at any one time in any districts or tracts to which Government may think it necessary to apply this rule. It will not of course be supposed that all the above improvements have been suddenly introduced. They have existed in a greater or less degree in many districts for some years past. The present year has seen them codified and authoritatively issued in Revised Revenue Circular No. 31. The occasion has also been taken for revising the statements for reporting suspensions, remissions and collections of suspended revenue with a view to greater efficiency by facilitating check.

Fluctuating Land Revenue.

15. One of the most prominent features of the Land Revenue Administration of the province during the last few years has been the marked trend in favour of a fluctuating as opposed to a fixed form of assessment for irrigated or sailáb lands, and during the year under report the amount of fluctuating land revenue permanently excluded from the rent roll has risen from about 26½ to 28 lakhs. This is partly due to extensions on the Ferozepore Inundation Canals, and to the spread of canal irrigation in the colonies, but the total is also swollen by the conversion to a large extent of the Muzaffargarh District assessment from the fixed to the fluctuating system. The increase would have been larger had not short supplies in the rivers injuriously affected the receipts from the Multán and Montgomery Inundation Canals. The collections on other canals showed no great difference. It is too soon as yet to attempt to foretell the future of fluctuating assessments. Difficulty is reported to be experienced in working them in Dera Ghází Khan, Muzaffargarh and the Hithár Circle of the Fázilka Tahsíl, whilst in the Rávi Bet Circles of Montgomery, as in Multán, they are said to be growing in popularity. Ideally of course a system, by which only matured crops are charged with revenue, must be the best. The difficulty experienced has been, with the staff available, and the standard of integrity prevailing, to allow for the several gradations of maturity in crops which depend on the uncertain irrigation of an inundation canal, or are raised in the necessarily unstable conditions of a colony.

Miscellaneous Land Revenue.

16. There has been an increase under this head of revenue from some 7½ to some 15½ lakhs. This is due almost entirely to the opening up of the colonies. Over 4½ lakhs were obtained from auction sales of land on the Jhelum Canal, whilst a little over a lakh represents the profits got by issuing farming leases to temporary cultivators pending the arrival of the regular colonists. Over 3 lakhs again were levied from purchasers of shop sites in the various new towns.

Collection of the Land Revenue.

17. That the revenue is readily paid is evidenced by the fact that in only three cases was it necessary to assume direct management or to order a farm or transfer. Moreover, the writs and warrants issued did not exceed the number last year. At the same time a tendency to issue warrants of arrest immediately, without first having resource to writs of demand undoubtedly exists, and it has been ruled for the guidance of Collectors that writs are always to issue in the first instance ; and warrants only if the writs fail ; and that where the number of warrants exceeds half the number of writs, the matter is to be explained in the annual land revenue report. It is interesting in this connection to note that the practice of paying in land revenue through the Post Office by revenue money order is steadily expanding. Attempts were made during the year to obtain a reduction of the fees chargeable on this class of business, but enquiry showed that with village post offices, organised as they are only for ordinary monetary transactions, it would be dangerous to invite any great increase in revenue money order transactions.

11. Surveys.

Survey of India Party No. 18 (Punjab).

18. The year has been an active one, and considering the smallness of the party employed (No. 18 (Punjab) Survey of India) the outturn has been very satisfactory. At the same time there is much left to be done, and representations have been made with a view to augmenting the staff, and orders have been received that the subject will be dealt with in connection with the general question of the preparation and revision of topographical maps. It is satisfactory to be able to record that the fragmentary remnants of previous Himálayan work in the Simla Hill States, Tehri-Garhwál and Jaunsár have been completed, as has also the Simla boundary survey. 97 sheets of the latter have been fair drawn and partially typed, and the remaining 12 held over for another year to admit of the railway being shown. Side by side with these 3,653 square miles have been topographically surveyed for the preparation of standard sheets on the 1-inch scale, in parts of Montgomery, Lahore and Amritsar. In Multán too considerable preliminary compilation and traverse work has been done with the same object, and with a view to providing a clear and definite plan of riverain areas, where a fixed boundary has recently been laid down under the Riverain Boundaries Act, 1899, as also in order to afford data by which important disputes may be disposed of, riverain surveys on the 4-inch scale, and preliminary compilation and traverses for the same, have been made on the Chenab, Sutlej and Indus. Whether these riverain surveys are, in the present very backward condition of ordinary survey work, worth the trouble and delay which they undoubtedly cause is a question which is under consideration.

Boundary Demarcation. Cases with Native States or other Provinces, etc.

19. Renewed efforts have been made during the year to dispose of all pending boundary cases. They fall for the most part into two classes,—cases with Native States or other provinces of British India, and riverain boundary cases. With regard to the former it was noted in 1901-02 that a fixed boundary of jurisdiction had been laid down the river bed between the Native State of Baháwalpur and the Punjab District of Dera Ghâzi Khan During the present year this work has been carried on into the Shujabad and Lodhrán Tahsíls of the Multán District, and it is hoped that before long the rest of the line through the remaining portions of the Multán District and through the Muzaffargarh and Montgomery Districts will have been disposed of. Similarly fixed boundaries were laid down between the Ferozepore and Amritsar Districts and the Kapurthala State on the Sutlej. The question of laying down a fixed boundary between the Punjab and the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh along the Jumna has also been taken up, as has the boundary demarcation between the Jhelum and Gujrát Districts and the Kashmir State. Steps are also being taken to demarcate Government waste land in the Montgomery District, where this is now becoming irrigable from the Chenab Canal.

Riverain Boundary Cases.

20. Before the passing of the Riverain Boundaries Act, I of 1899 (Punjab), the deep stream rule as legalised by Bengal Regulation No. XI of 1825 and Schedule I of the Punjab Laws Act IV of 1872 prevailed almost entirely throughout the province. With the steady increase in the [illegible] of the

administrative machinery the state of affairs, with the numerous quarrels and never ending disputes, became intolerable, and one of the earliest acts of the then newly-created Punjab Legislative Council was to do away with the makeshift arrangement embodied in the Punjab Laws Act of 1872, and to take power to lay a fixed boundary between estates down the courses of all the big rivers. Since the passing of the Act special officers have been deputed each cold weather, when the rivers are low, to carry out the necessary demarcation work, and already a large part of it has been completed. It will be out of place until the last boundary has been laid or until the next decennial report is prepared to attempt to review the operations. For the present it will be enough to note that the work is going on apace, and that during the year fixed boundaries were sanctioned for estates on the Sutlej in the Kasúr Tahsíl of Lahore on the right bank and the Zíra and Ferozepore Tahsils of Ferozepore on the left bank, and in the Dipálpur Tahsíl of Montgomery on the right bank and the Ferozepore District on the left bank. Work has also been in progress between two Amritsar and two Siálkot villages on the Ravi, and between Hoshiárpur and Ambála and Ludhiána on the Sutlej. A fixed boundary is also being laid down on the Sohan in Hoshiárpur.

12. Settlements.

Progress of operations in the Punjab.

21. Settlement operations have been completed in Muzaffargarh and in the Sirsa Tahsíl of the Hissar District and in the Punjab Tahsíls of the old Dera Ismail Khan District; they have been in full swing in the Attock Tahsíl of the old Ráwalpindi (the present Attock) District, in Jhang, and in the Háfizabad and Khángah Dográn Tahsíls of the Gujránwála District; they have been well started in the rest of the old Ráwalpindi District. As already noted, the effect of the Muzaffargarh Settlement was to introduce over a large area a system of fluctuating assessment. Otherwise there has been very little of interest to chronicle. In the Attock Tahsíl the system, by which the maps of last settlement are merely brought up to date, and remeasurement is not made, proved so successful that the same plan has been followed throughout the Ráwalpindi District. This will become more and more possible as districts, which have already undergone a second regular settlement on modern lines, come under resettlement. The saving of time and trouble to the people, which the system involves, has proved quite remarkable. All the settlements completed have proved profitable to Government.

Supervision still exercised in North-West Frontier Province.

22. The Settlement Commissioner has continued to supervise the settlement operations in the Hazára and Kohát Districts and in the frontier tahsíls of the Dera Ismail Khan District of the North-West Frontier Province.

13. Land Records.

Patwari and Kanungo Agency and Land Record Establishments.

23. A full account of the Patwári and Kánúngo Agency was given at pages 71—75 of the report for the year 1901-02. During the present year the long contemplated step of provincialising the Patwár Fund has at length been taken, and it has been decided to pay the entire cost of the Field Kánúngo Agency from the amalgamated Fund. It will now be possible to equalise the pay of Patwárís throughout the province, by making up from the richer districts the deficiencies in those which are less well off. Steps have also been taken to ensure that the posts of Siáh Navís and Tahsíl Wásil Báqi Navís, which are reserved for Patwárís, shall actually go to them, enquiry in one Division having shown that, owing to office intrigues, out of 43 posts only 15 had been properly allotted. It has also been proposed to throw open the post of Tahsíl Judicial Muharrir to this class. It is also being arranged to check the practice of enrolling Patwári candidates indiscriminately by fixing scales of recruitment, which shall ensure that every candidate shall at least have a chance of employment. At present the number of candidates in the province is in the proportion of 43 per cent. to the number of posts, which is largely in excess. Altogether the efforts which have been made for several years to increase the efficiency of this very important branch of the subordinate establishment have proved successful. It is noted by the Director of Land Records that 80 of the existing Patwári candidates have passed the Entrance Examination. The absence of a pension fund, however,

still operates to prevent the weeding out of useless men, and gratuities, though liberally given, do not make up for this long-felt want. The efficiency of the Kánúngos has also been kept in view. Large numbers have been sent for training to various settlements, 26 have been accepted as Náib Tahsíldár candidates or have been appointed as such, whilst 6 others have been otherwise promoted.

Statistical information derived from the Land Records.

24. The total number of mutations of title continues to rise, no less than 599,167 having been attested as against 559,044 for last year. This is ascribed to the heavy death roll on account of plague. Special measures were taken to keep this branch of the work up to date with satisfactory results. Steps have also been taken to simplify some of the forms and to do away with others. The disadvantages of elaboration were experienced when the time came to commence a general enquiry into the alleged failures of sailáb in riverain tracts in consequence of the opening of perennial canals. It was then found that the records of past years had not been correctly prepared, and that the information regarding these areas was inaccurate. This has now received attention. Certain alterations in the records were also necessitated by the Alienation of Land Act.

14—Waste Lands and Government Estates.

Government Canal Colonies.

25. The colonies of the Province, though still in their infancy, form one of the most interesting features of the administration, and absorb more and more the attention of Government in the various branches interested in their development. The two oldest colonies, the Sidhnai and Lower Soház Pára in the Multán and Montgomery Districts, respectively, with an area of some 500,000 acres, have for some years passed into a settled condition, and are administered as part of the general system. No special questions have arisen in their connection during the year, which is the best tribute to their condition. The Chenab, Jhelum and Chunián colonies on the other hand are still separately reported on as presenting special features, and the two first named are specially administered under the supervision of the Settlement Commissioner by specially selected officers, and all three are subject to the provisions of the Government Tenants Act (Punjab), III of 1893. This Act, which was necessarily framed without experience of the manner in which large colonies would be developed, and which aimed at avoiding the necessity for separate leases for each lessee of Government waste land, has been found to possess many important defects in practice, in particular in matters relating to succession, tree-planting, sanitation and mule-breeding in the colony, and a revised draft Bill has been prepared and is now under discussion.

Chenab Colony.

26. The progress of settlement operations in the colony during the year has been satisfactory, and the soil classification, which is being made with a view to facilitating assessment, will be continued, though it is as yet too early to decide on what basis re-assessment will be possible. The most popular crop with the grantees is wheat which accounts for almost 50 per cent. of the harvested produce, cotton coming next at about 11 per cent. Almost ⅔rds of the total cultivated area is in the hands of the grantees themselves, but of the capitalist and yeoman grantees very few reside and only 283 out of 50,610 acres held by these classes are self-cultivated. This shows what a mistake it was not to have enforced residence from the first. The lesson has been somewhat dearly purchased, but it has borne fruit in the Jhelum Colony, where only in special cases are grantees allowed to be absentee landlords. Amongst the cultivators, who are to the largest extent self-cultivating, are to be found the nomad tribes of the old waste, who have settled down to agriculture in the most surprising manner. The story is told that when the colony was first opened and the railway was made, some of these nomads were shown an engine at work and expressed themselves surprised at being unable to discover where the camel, their only idea of motor power, was hid. Now it is said they have settled down to the use of bullock carts. In the same way there is a decided tendency to assimilate new ideas in matters of social custom as well as of agriculture. The Gurdáspur settlers have at length begun to overcome their deep-seated fear of buildings of burnt brick, and the Aráín women of Jullundur have supplemented their scanty petticoats with voluminous trousers, without which it has been found impossible on high days and holidays to support their new social dignity. The sweeper class too has risen greatly in

the colony, and in 1901 numbered over 97,000 souls, a total which exceeds that for any other district in the Province, except Lahore. Most of them have given up their traditional employment and have become prosperous agriculturists, a change which would have been quite impossible in any old world community. Altogether the condition of the colony is one of great prosperity, which is likely to increase as new schemes of irrigation are worked out, and the colony is further opened up with the branch lines of railway now under discussion, and the feeder roads at present under contemplation. In all 1,773, 398 acres have been brought under colonisation, and the population settled amounts to about 1,000,000.

Jhelum Colony.

27. The conditions and arrangements for colonisation in the Jhelum Colony have now reached what is practically a final form, and very considerable progress has been made in the work of allotment. The total area available for colonisation proves to be about 488,000 acres. After making provision for civil and military reward grants and for grants of a miscellaneous nature, the remaining area amounting to about 270,800 acres has been reserved for grants to colonists on conditions of horse-breeding and for Imperial and regimental horse-runs. Some modifications in the terms of horse-breeding grants were made during the year. The most important of these changes is the grant to each colonist of two squares instead of one and-a-half, so that a higher standard of brood mare can be insisted on. It is a most satisfactory circumstance that there has been no difficulty in securing an ample number of applicants for grants on horse-breeding conditions on the terms offered. It is indeed a remarkable tribute to the belief of the people in the colony policy of Government that they have accepted without demur any conditions offered them, in the confident expectation that their own interests are the immediate care of Government, and that the conditions imposed will always be such as the average man can readily fulfil. That this confidence is shared by the commercial as well as the agricultural classes is proved by the fact that shop sites have been readily bought up at from Rs. 600 to Rs. 800, directly proceedings for the creation of a new town have been started. In all 64,468 acres have been allotted in this colony. The work was only commenced in September 1902.

Chunian Colony.

28. No fresh allotment has been made in the small Chunián Colony in the Lahore District during the year, and there is nothing of particular interest to record. The recoverable demand for the year under report came to a little over $1\frac{1}{4}$ lakhs. Thirty-three thousand five hundred acres have been allotted in the colony, but it is hoped that 40,000 acres more will shortly be opened up.

Other Government waste.

29. Besides the above mentioned areas, there are still large tracts of waste land in the Province much of which only awaits irrigation to rival the present colonies in fertility, and far-reaching schemes are under discussion. At present the bulk of this area is only fit for grazing, and during the year arrangements have been completed for supplying grazing grounds for the Silláhdar Camel Corps, which have recently been raised at Montgomery, Lahore, Shahpur, Ráwalpindi and Multán. It is also under contemplation to do the same for the corps which it has been decided to transfer from Nowshera to Campbellpur. The plan is to the effect that during the period the camels are on employed pay at the head-quarters of the corps they are to have free grazing. The new rules to give effect to this have not yet perhaps settled into their final shape, as experience has still to be acquired of the requirements to be met, but the movement is a very important one, as it will go far to save the people from the evils of transport collection in time of war and should do much to rehabilitate the position of the camel. Arrangements have also been made during the year for grazing by transport camels on the line of march, which is only another step in the same direction. It may also be noted in this connection that the special camel service grants in the Chenab Colony have been successfully worked throughout the year.

15.—Wards Estates.

Punjab Court of Wards Act, II of 1903.

30. The necessity of special legislation in supersession of the provisions of the Punjab Laws Act, IV of 1872, to which reference has already been made in dealing with the riverain boundaries question, and which is the

direct outcome of the institution of a Provincial Legislative Council, has been nowhere more apparent than in the case of the management of wards estates. Under the old Act, framed at a time of decentralisation, when control was less rigid and the tradition of a very independent district administration was still fresh, the Deputy Commissioner of each district was his own Court of Wards and there was very little in the nature of law to control his actions. This worked well enough as long as no disposition existed amongst the public to question his decisions. The growth of sophistication however has for some time caused difficulties, and the increasing centralisation of the administration has rendered the old position incongruous. Moreover, serious deficiencies in the old law have for long existed. There has for instance been no sufficient authority for dealing with claims on encumbered estates, and it has been impossible to retain them under management on the ward coming of age, which has of itself entirely prevented the raising of loans on business principles. By the new Act, No. II, Punjab, of 1903, which came into force on June 25th, 1903, the Financial Commissioner, instead of occupying as hitherto the position of a controlling authority, has himself been made the Court of Wards for the whole Province. To prevent needless references rules have been issued under the Act, together with an explanatory circular, defining clearly the powers of Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners and laying down certain much needed principles of management. There are now 44 estates under the Court of Wards, which, though very much less than was the case some years ago, when Deputy Commissioners took over charge very lightly, is still excessive, and measures are being taken to release all such as are either too petty to require the intervention of Government or raise no particular political interests. The tendency in this as in other branches of the administration is to restrict Government intervention to the least possible and to depart to this extent from the old paternal ideal of administration. The actual details of the year's operations call for no special remark.

16.—Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

31. The Land Alienation Act had been in force for over two years when the last report on the subject was received, and it is satisfactory to be able to record that its provisions are coming to be better understood both by the people and by the officers entrusted with its working. With a view to facilitate this all the notifications and orders relating to the Act, which have from time to time been issued, have been bound up with each annual report. To turn to the statistics it may be noted that the figures in regard to mortgages go to prove that forms of mortgage permitted by the Act are coming into use, and they also disclose a rise in the mortgage value of land, as compared with the previous year. As to the effect of the Act on the sale price of land it is too early as yet to draw any satisfactory conclusions. The area of land redeemed showed a decrease on last year's figures, but this was probably due to the comparative inferiority of the harvest, and whatever the amount, it represented land really freed from encumbrance, and not a mere nominal redemption for the purpose of remortgaging. To sum up it may be said that the prominent features of the year were that the depreciation in the value of the land, which had been observed at first, was arrested, and that money-lenders began to accept mortgages in the forms prescribed by the Act. The rules under the Act worked well and smoothly, but further detailed instructions on subsidiary points were required. There is reason to believe that extravagance on ceremonial occasions was checked, and signs were not wanting that capital so set free was being diverted to more productive channels. The statistics have not yet shaken themselves clear of the effect of transactions antecedent to the Act, and the time has not come to generalise upon the consequences of applying the principle of one district one group. It has however to be accepted that the Act has strengthened the position of the rich zamíndár and has bettered his prospects of acquiring the lands of his neighbours. Finally, so far as experience has shown up to date, the Act is fulfilling its purpose very well, and that without appreciable increase of official labour. The chief defect has proved to be the wholly artificial status of the agriculturist, founded on nothing which is any real part of the structure of society.

Alienation of Land Act, XIII of 1900.

Descent of Jagirs Act, No. IV, Punjab, of 1900.

32. Another way in which the revenue-paying classes have been affected during the year has been by the application of the Descent of Jagírs Act, No. IV (Punjab) of 1900. Here again is found an instance of the amplification of the rough and ready provisions of the Punjab Laws Act of 1872 to which reference has been made in the case of the Riverain Boundaries and the Court of Wards Acts. The object of the new legislation has been to arrest the sub-division of jagír tenures, and to place upon a definitely legal basis certain matters connected with jagír administration which had previously been regulated by loosely defined custom. Since the Act was passed nearly all the big Jagírdárs have been brought under it, except in the Ambála District, where an attitude of suspicion is said to prevail. In all, eleven notifications under the Act were issued in 1902-03, and 41 have been published during the present year. The Jagírdárs obtain by coming under the Act the very substantial advantage that their assignments cannot be attached by order of a Court in satisfaction of a decree, and proposals are also on foot to grant adoption sanads to such of the more deserving men as have accepted the rule of primogeniture. On the other hand, all that they are asked to do in return is to admit the existence of certain obligations, which may never before have been reduced to writing, but which Government have never hesitated to enforce. It is on this latter point that the negotiations in the Ambála District have come to a standstill, but the Jagírdárs there have received an assurance that no change of policy is intended, and it is hoped that this will satisfy the objectors.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

[Detailed information and statistics on the subjects included in this chapter will be found in the following reports :—

Police.—Report on the Police Administration of the Punjab for the year 1903.

Report on the working of the Criminal Tribes Act for the year 1903.

Criminal Justice.—Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Punjab and its Dependencies during the year 1903.

Prisons.—Report on the Administration of the Jails in the Punjab, 1903.

Civil Justice.—Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Punjab and its Dependencies during the year 1903.

Registration.—Note on the Registration Returns of the Punjab for the year 1903.

Municipal Administration.—Report on the working of Municipalities in the Punjab during the year 1903-04.

Local Boards Administration.—Report on the working of the Local Boards in the Punjab during the year 1903-04.

And in the following tables of the Volume of Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Fighth Issue, 1904, *viz.* Police (Tables VII), Criminal Justice (Tables IV), Jails (Tables V), Civil Justice (Tables III), Registration (Table IX) and Municipalities (Tables XVII).]

17. Legislating Authority.

(See pages 83 and 84 of the report for the year 1901-02).

18. Course of Legislation.

33. None of the enactments, which were passed by the Supreme Legislative Council during the year, were solely applicable to the Punjab. Supreme Legislative Council.

34. Only two meetings of the Punjab Legislative Council took place during the year, *viz.*, on the 11th May 1903 at Lahore and on the 23rd December 1903 at Lahore. Meetings of Punjab Council.

35. The following Bills were introduced in Council at the above meetings :— Pending Bills.

(1) A Bill to amend the law relating to the limitation of suits for the recovery of money due on account of money lent or advanced, or on an account stated, or in respect of goods supplied.

(2) Bill to amend the Sind Ságar Doáb Colonization Act, 1902.

(3) Bill to make better provision for the control and management of Minor Canals in the Punjab.

Acts.

36. The Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Court of Wards in the Punjab was passed in Council on the 11th May 1903, and it received the assent of the Governor-General on the 12th June 1903. The Bills mentioned above as having been introduced during the year were pending on the 31st March 1904. The Bill to amend the law relating to pre-emption in force in the Punjab, introduced by the Hon'ble Sir Lewis Tupper in Council on the 17th January 1902, was withdrawn by him on the 23rd December 1903.

Members of Punjab Council.

37. The following changes took place amongst the Hon'ble Members during the period under report:—

The seat of the Hon'ble Sir Imám Bakhsh Khan, K.C.I.E., fell vacant on his death on the 13th September 1903.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. Wilson resigned his seat.

The Hon'ble Kanwar Sir Harnám Singh, K.C.I.E., also vacated his seat on the expiry of his term on the 13th November 1903.

The seats of the Hon'ble Mr. (now Sir) D. P. Masson and the Hon'ble Colonel J. B. Hutchison became vacant owing to the expiry of their term of office, and they were re-appointed for a further term of two years.

The Hon'ble Miyán Muhammad Shah Dín, the Hon'ble Mr. J. M. Douie, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Benton, the Hon'ble Kanwar Sir Ranbír Singh and the Hon'ble Honorary Major Rája Jai Chand were appointed to fill vacancies.

19. Police.

Condition of crime.

38. The generally favourable agricultural conditions which prevailed during the year, together with the general cheapness of food-grains and steady prices, have reflected on the criminal record of the Province and produced a substantial drop in cognizable offences reported to and investigated by Police Agency. Cases reported direct to Magistrates have, it is true, increased, but from the fact that, broadly speaking, only 1 out of every 21 of such cases results in a conviction, it is a fair inference, and one which has the support of the statistics for several years, that very little true cognizable crime is brought to notice except through the Police, and that it is to the Magistrate that the man goes who wishes to harass his enemy or gratify his desire for litigation. Serious offences against the person have decreased in a very satisfactory manner and in particular dakaities, which stood at 151 in 1900, now figure out at 58. On the other hand, the number of murders in Ráwalpindi and Ambála has increased, and as a whole the condition of the faction-ridden trans-Jhelum portion of the Ráwalpindi Division is far from satisfactory. The passing of the Poisons Act of 1904 will, it is hoped, prove very beneficial in checking one branch of serious crime, and renewed efforts are being made to enlist the more cordial co-operation of village notables by putting the system of rewards and punishments on a more stable footing. But it is too soon as yet to discuss matters of Police reform. The subject is just now very much to the fore, and will be more fitly reviewed when the recommendations of the Police Commission have been sifted and translated into practical shape. The very appreciable decrease in burglaries, under the head of offences against property, is ascribed to decreased evacuation of village sites in case of plague, and to the fact that greater precautions for the safe custody of property were taken in the case of evacuation. Only four serious cases of counterfeiting coin came to light during the year, but a large amount of false coin was detected at Railway Stations in the Punjab and its dependent

Native States and in the North-West Frontier Province: 6,501 whole rupees of this kind were detected, 288 eight-anna pieces, 422 four-anna and 505 two-anna bits. One serious case of forgery of Government Currency Notes was brought to conviction, and three forged 10-rupee notes were sent to the Police by the Currency Office, but no clue could be established.

Preventive measures.

39. The percentage of cases carried through to conviction and the proportion of property recovered to that stolen shows some slight falling-off, but the statistics on these points are notoriously fallacious, and the undue importance often attached to them has not unfrequently a most deleterious effect on police working. With the country constituted as it is a high level of detection can never be expected. What is more important is, that a high standard of prevention should be maintained, and in this respect there are signs of successful activity. The number of punitive police posts has been increased from 6 to 18, and the striking success achieved affords ample justification for the prompt application of this remedy in all cases where outbreaks of turbulence or lawlessness occur, or where the criminal record of a tract indicates that the populace are in sympathy with criminals and fail to co-operate with the forces of law and order. Again it is satisfactory to notice that Magistrates are much more ready than they were to deal adequately with habitual offenders. Nothing is more preventive of crime than the certainty that old offenders will on reconviction be severely punished, and that repeated depredations on society will not be tolerated. In dealing with this aspect of their work the police and the courts have been much assisted by the Criminal Identification Bureau. There are now 118,070 finger-impression slips stored and classified, and during the year 4,390 references were made from the Punjab only, which resulted in the identification of 842 old offenders. Of these 432 had given false names or addresses or both, and 459 had previous convictions to their account in more than one district. Surveillance and the use of the security sections of the Criminal Procedure Code have also not been neglected, but a tendency undoubtedly exists to sweep too many suspects into the net, instead of confining attention to the really serious offenders. A strict surveillance of the latter is likely to be of more effect than the loose supervision over numerous comparatively petty misdemeanants. Similarly, in using the bad livelihood sections of the Code it is far more important that the worst characters, the leaders and organizers of crime, should be placed under adequate safeguards for considerable periods than that attention should be paid to the total numbers of orders to furnish security. Both these subjects are receiving attention. Speaking as a whole, the state of the police working is not unsatisfactory, and progress in the important qualities of honesty, discipline, confidence and vigilance is distinctly discernible. In these rather than in paper percentages is the healthiness of the administration to be found.

RURAL POLICE.

Rural Police.

40. This subject was treated of on pages 88 and 89 of the report for the year 1901-02. The village chaukídárs are still village menials, and can hardly be ranked as rural police.

CRIMINAL TRIBES.

Criminal Tribes.

41. There are ten criminal tribes in the Punjab proclaimed under the Criminal Tribes Act either throughout the Punjab or in particular districts. The most important of these are the Bauriahs, Harnis, Pakhiwárs and Sánsis. During the last two years extra attention has been paid to increasing the efficiency of the police control over the members of these tribes. In particular, registration of members of the criminal tribes has been made more thoroughly. But it was only completed towards the end of the year, and in some districts had not then been completed, so that the full effect of the extra attention can not yet be judged. Still the main features of the year's working are the very large increase in new registrations and the drop in offences under

the Indian Penal Code committed by registered persons. Thus, although 6,724 persons, mainly Sánsis and Bauriahs, have been added to the registers, the number of convictions under the Code has fallen to 135. A still more satisfactory element which the return discloses, is the fact that while exemptions have increased by 1,374 persons, only three cases of conviction are recorded against exempted persons for offences under the Penal Code during the year. While, therefore, assertions of regeneration and reform on the part of a criminal tribe must be received with due caution, there is some reason to suppose that the systematic application of the Act is beginning to make some headway, and that there is a tendency on the part of many members of the settled tribes to withdraw from crime in favour of legitimate methods of earning a livelihood. The number of absentees is still, however, abnormally high, and it is impossible to claim that the problem of dealing effectively with criminal tribes has been successfully tackled until absenteeism is reduced to a minimum and the wandering tribes are brought under adequate supervision. The latter point is receiving separate consideration, and it is not improbable that an amendment of the Criminal Tribes Act will follow as a result of the representations which have been made on the subject.

20. Criminal Justice.

General.

42. The criminal record of the Province for the year 1903 has already been considered in the foregoing section, which deals with the working of the Police Department, and, as the statistics of offences reported to and investigated by police agency furnish a truer criterion of the actual state of crime than the figures of cases which come before the courts and are necessarily inflated by innumerable complaints of a petty, false or frivolous character, there is no need to travel over the same ground again or to treat the judicial returns as a reliable index to the criminality of the population. Indeed, the figures for the districts of Hoshiárpur, Jullundur, Siálkot and Gurdáspur, which show percentages of convictions to complaints of 17, 17, 15 and 10, respectively, are a striking comment on the way the time of the courts is wasted in enquiring into cases which should never so much as reach them. As to how this abuse of the courts can be prevented is another and a more difficult matter, but the Hon'ble Judges of the Chief Court have it under consideration, and have expressed the opinion that there is no district in the Province in which the habit of having recourse to the courts in trivial disputes does not positively require such definite discouragement as can be administered by a free use of the power of summary dismissal given by the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Appellate work of District Magistrates.

43. The only other point of interest in the year's working has been the extraordinary number of appeals, which have gradually come to be lodged in the courts of District Magistrates. The figures show that in 1902 the District Magistrates of the 27 districts of the Punjab, as now constituted, disposed of more than twice as many appellants, and between seven and eight times as many applicants for revision, as the District Magistrates of the 32 districts which constituted the Province in 1882. In 1882 again only 11 per cent. of those who were convicted appealed. In 1902 the percentage was 36 The figures are the more remarkable when it is observed that they exceed those for the same class of work in the 47 districts of Bengal, and when it is remembered that a District Magistrate in the Punjab has to undergo the labour of Section 30 cases as well. The only two effective measures, *viz.*, either to curtail the power of appeal from sentences passed by 2nd and 3rd Class Magistrates or to confer the power of enhancing sentences on the courts of Sessions Judges and District Magistrates, are, under existing conditions, out of the question, and no other effective remedy appears to be forthcoming. Otherwise the general condition of the work of the criminal courts is satisfactory, and there are ample indications that habitual and professional criminals are being far more adequately dealt with than has hitherto been the case.

21. Prisons.

44. Two new jails were opened during the year, *viz.*, Lyallpur and Miánwáli; while two other jails, Múng Rasúl and Dharmsála, were closed as such. The jail at Dharmsála was converted into a lock-up. The total jail population and also the number of convicts admitted exhibit a decrease over the previous year, while the daily average number of convicts has fallen from 12,005 to 11,271. The releases and remissions of sentence granted on the occasion of the Coronation Darbár account for this. The total jail accommodation, excluding the accommodation in hospitals and observation cells, is sufficient for 12,912 convicts and 845 undertrial prisoners. There was thus sufficient accommodation for the daily average population, but not enough margin of accommodation for the population which had sometimes to be provided for and which was considerably in excess of the average figure. The overcrowding which on such occasions took place in the larger prisons has emphasised the need for a new Central Jail in the southern portion of the Province, and a site for one is under discussion. Notwithstanding the overcrowding, the health of the prisoners has been good, and the death-rate has fallen from 25·06 to 19·18 per thousand. With a death-rate amongst the free population of 49 per thousand this is a remarkable testimony to the sanitary condition of the jails, and this is made clearer when it is added that throughout the year the jail population has been practically immune from plague. The decline (8 to 6) in the number of escapes, concurrently with the substantial decrease (3,530 compared with 4,085) in the number of cases in which fetters were imposed for safe custody, speaks well for the general efficiency of the subordinate establishment, and the fall in the average cost per head on guarding and maintenance from Rs. 66-7-0 to Rs. 63-7-3 is a satisfactory indication that the department is being conducted on a business-like basis. General.

45. On the other side there is still much room for improvement on the part of the courts in the work of classifying the prisoners. The importance of this may be gathered from the strikingly disproportionate extent to which the habitual class of convicts, who form only 12 per cent. of the jail population, contribute to the number of punishments inflicted in jails, and when the distinction between casuals and habituals is carelessly made, and habituals are recorded as casuals or casuals as habituals, there is every danger of contamination in the former case to the casual population and in the latter to the individual. The matter is receiving careful consideration. Classification of prisoners.

46. The same question of contamination is raised in the case of juvenile offenders. Special measures were taken last year to draw the attention of all courts to this important matter, and their attention was invited to the provisions of Section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, and to those of the Reformatory Schools Act. The figures for the present year do not show the effect of this warning, but it is hoped that next year there will be a marked improvement. The Reformatory School was established at Delhi in October 1903, and it should have the effect of reducing the number of juvenile prisoners committed to jail. Juvenile offenders.

47. Special measures have also recently been taken to urge the courts to give sentences of transportation in the case of habitual offenders, whether for life or for a term of years. It is gratifying to notice that during the year such punishments have risen from 160 to 207, but it is as yet too early to say whether this increase is fortuitous or marks a real improvement in the working of the courts. On the whole, the Jail Department is in a very satisfactory condition, and there are ample indications that the efforts made to keep it in a high state of efficiency and to co-ordinate its working with that of the courts are bearing fruit. Sentences of transportation.

22. Civil Justice.

48. Compared with the figures of 1902 there was a decrease during the year of 4,986 in the number of original suits instituted in civil courts, excluding Divisional Courts and the Chief Court. The largest decreases occurred Institutions.

in Siálkot (1,537) and Multán (1,124). The largest increase occurred in Hoshiárpur (924). Excluding the year 1901, during which activity in litigation was greatly stimulated by apprehensions regarding the probable effect of the Land Alienation Act, there has been a steady decrease in the volume of civil litigation since the year 1896, and although that Act appears to be the principal factor in producing the drop in institutions now observable, it is also probable that other causes, notably plague, have contributed to this result. Agricultural conditions appear to form an uncertain criterion to apply to civil litigation, for, although generally speaking bad years should give rise to debt and good years to realizations, the fluctuations in institutions do not support this theory with any marked consistency. Until therefore experience has gauged the full effects of special legislation and plague, it is impossible to determine whether civil litigation in the Province is really on the wane, or whether the volume of business now disclosed approximates to the normal or not. That the Land Alienation Act has recently proved a potent factor in reducing litigation is evidenced by the marked drop in suits brought by money-lenders against agriculturists (from 100,449 to 93,900) and in suits to establish a right of pre-emption (from 3,537 to 2,977).

Disposal of suits.

49. Notwithstanding this decrease in the number of institutions the pending file at the end of the year was not materially reduced. Disposals fell short of the preceding year by 6,402 and the pending file still exhibits the large number of 29,137 suits, a decrease of 618 cases only. The average duration of cases both contested and uncontested has also risen from 45 to 50 and 27 to 30 days respectively, though this may be due to some extent to a change in the method of calculating the duration of cases, recently prescribed by the Chief Court. Various reasons have been advanced for these disappointing results; and a partial remedy at any rate may be found by making some redistribution of work between districts.

Chief Court.

50. As regards the Chief Court itself, the efforts made to expedite the disposal of work by extending the civil appellate jurisdiction of Single Benches have proved quite inadequate to remove the serious congestion of business which exists. The powers of Single Benches have been raised to the highest limit to which, in the opinion of the Judges, they can properly be raised. The subject is under the consideration of Government, and it is hoped that it will be possible before long to provide adequate assistance to enable the Court to cope with the burden of arrears which the report of the present year discloses.

General.

51. The training of junior Assistant Commissioners in their judicial duties by attaching them to the courts of District and Sessions Judges is receiving the careful attention of the Chief Court and the results are realising their expectations. The policy of detailing officers for civil judicial work only was extended during the year, and now there are 11 District Judges and 2 Extra Assistant Commissioners employed exclusively on civil work. The results are considered satisfactory. The average duration of cases is less, the number of hearings fewer, and the litigants can count on having their cases heard on the dates fixed for hearing instead of having them postponed to make room for criminal work.

Execution of decrees.

52. The results of execution proceedings are still disappointing, although the percentage of realizations (24 per cent.) is a slight improvement on that of the preceding year. A considerable number of decrees are privately satisfied, and due allowance must be made for realizations which never find their way into the registers.

23. Registration.

General.

53. The calendar year has now been adopted for the purposes of Registration Returns, and the business of the Department is reviewed every three years. The next triennial report is due in 1904. The only matter of interest raised by

the statistics of the present year is the indication afforded by the rise in the number of compulsory registrations of immoveable property from 50,948 to 55,451, that business is reviving from the first depressing effect of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act, the provisions of which were in the beginning very much misunderstood. Progress is also being made in the work of concentrating registration records, and new central record-rooms were completed at Ludhiána and Jullundur. There is nothing else worthy of remark.

24. Local Boards Administration.

54. No changes were effected in the year under report in the number of Local Boards in the Province. In Muzaffargarh representative circles were formed by grouping together similarly circumstanced zails. Elsewhere no changes have occurred in the system of appointing members to District Boards. **Constitution of District and Local Boards.**

55. The only district where any interest was displayed in the elections to vacancies on the District Board was Karnál. Generally appointment is considered more honourable than canvassing for votes. **Elections.**

56. The prevalence of plague and the absence of business accounted for a failure on the part of the District Boards of Gujránwála and Ambála to meet the prescribed number of times. Only three ordinary meetings were held also by five other District Boards, *viz.*, Kángra, Sháhpur, Jhelum, Ráwalpindi and Lahore. On the other hand, the attendance at District Board meetings in the districts of Rohtak, Gurgaon and Hoshiárpur improved, and a satisfactory disposition to work was displayed elsewhere. **Meetings of District Boards.**

57. The general working of the District Boards has been satisfactory, and although in most districts the actual work is done by the official members, there are exceptions to this rule. Village sanitation is now claiming the attention of some of the Boards; and Sub-Committees have been formed in most districts, thereby interesting members in special departments of work. **Working of District Boards.**

58. The only rules framed during the year calling for notice concerned a revision of the rules regulating the fees payable by Boards for services rendered by the Sanitary Engineer or Public Works Department. **Rules.**

25. Municipal Administration.

59. Miánwáli has been constituted a second class Municipality during the year under report, and Gojra in the Jhang District has been declared a Notified Area, represented by 4 members. No other changes have occurred. **New Municipalities established and old Municipalities abolished.**

60. Nomination has been substituted for election in the Municipalities of Bhiwáni and Sáhiwál. The constitution of the Sujánpur (Gurdáspur) Committee was changed in order to equalise the number of Hindu and Muhammadan representatives. The rental qualifications of voters was raised in Amritsar proper. **Changes effected in the system of appointing members.**

61. Two hundred and seventy-nine vacancies in elective seats occurred during the year; 175 old members secured re-election, and 76 seats were filled by new candidates. The remaining 28 seats were either left unfilled owing to the occurrence of the vacancy at the close of the year, or of the retiring candidates' term of offices, or were filled by nomination. Although 309 candidates (excluding those for the Jullundur Division, for which figures are not available) were nominated for the vacant seats, only 95 contests actually took place throughout the Province. **Election and appointment of new members.**

62. Eight elective seats are reported to have been filled by nomination owing to the lack of candidates during the year. Changes have consequently been entailed in the proportionate number of seats held by elected and nominated members in Ballabgarh, Kaithal and other Municipalities. **Proportion of elected and nominated members.**

Meetings of Municipal Committees and attendance at meetings.

63. The number of meetings held and the attendance of members thereat has on the whole been satisfactory during the year under report. The Committees of Simla, Delhi and Zafarwál met 56, 52 and 51 times respectively. The Ambála Committee met 48 times and that of Multán 36. Amritsar and Mukerián had 29 and 28 meetings respectively, Lahore and Máchiwára 22, Murree and Ráwalpindi 22 and Una 20 meetings. On the other hand no less than 28 Committees failed to hold the prescribed number of meetings. In many of the minor Municipalities the prevalence of plague and the absence of business is pleaded as an excuse, but it can only be due to the apathy of the members that 3 meetings of the Ferozepore Municipality had to be adjourned for lack of a quorum. The Notified Areas of Shádiwál and Sháhpur Civil Station held no meetings during the year under report, while that of Rámdás held 1 only.

General working of the Committee.

64. Sub-Committees are now generally in operation, and they are reported to have relieved the General Committees of much routine work. In the Lahore Municipality, however, it is noticed that valuable time is lost by relegating to them business which ought to be disposed of by the General Committee itself. The proceedings of Committees were overruled in 11 cases during the year. None of the cases call for any special notice. Generally speaking, the working of the Committees for the year is reported to be satisfactory, but there are many exceptions, in which the members are more actuated by party feeling than public spirit, while the management of the Sadhaura, Tánda, Sháhabad and Palwal Committees is very adversely spoken of.

Rules framed by Government or by the Committee.

65. Bye-laws regarding the collection and refund of octroi were framed during the year in Delhi, Leiah, Ráwalpindi, Pind Dádan Khan and all Committees of the Hoshiárpur District; Delhi, Simla, Jhajjar, Bahádurgarh, Gohána and Hidáyatpur Chhaoni passed bye-laws dealing with slaughter-houses and the sale of meat. In Jullundur the Conservancy Dárogha was invested with the powers of a Police Officer under Section 34 of Act V of 1861. Building bye-laws were passed in Kángra. A number of bye-laws have been passed and others are under consideration in the newly constituted Municipality of Miánwáli. The Simla Municipality also passed bye-laws dealing with the water-supply and vaccination.

TAXATION.

Imposition of new and withdrawal of old taxes.

66. The only changes in the year occurred in the Delhi Division, where the house-tax levied in Bhiwáni Municipality was discontinued and sanction given to the levy of a house-tax in the Ambála Municipality in lieu of the existing water-tax which, as noticed last year, never worked smoothly. The rates of the house-tax levied in the Budhláda Notified Area have been raised to figures varying from Rs. 15 to annas 8 per annum according to the means of the owner. The revision of the octroi schedules of all Municipalities has been held in abeyance pending the decision of the Government of India as to the maximum rates to be levied on the various classes of commodities.

Total income from taxation.

67. The total income derived from rates and taxes in all the Municipal and Notified Areas during the year amounted to Rs. 34,44,400, showing an increase of Rs. 1,55,000 over last year's collections. Collections from octroi amounted to Rs. 30,44,000, and accounted for almost the whole of this increase, though there were also substantial increases in the returns of house-tax. The profits of the water-tax and tolls on roads and ferries declined. The reaction after the inflated figures of the Darbár year accounts for a fall of Rs. 36,000 in the octroi income of Delhi; while the scare of plague and the partial desertion of the city consequent upon it is said to explain a similar decline of Rs. 34,000 in Ráwalpindi. The octroi recoveries of Amritsar, Simla and Lahore increased by Rs. 47,000, Rs. 30,000 and Rs. 28,000 (in round figures) respectively; these increases were mainly due to good harvests and improved administration.

Incidence of taxation.

68. The average incidence of all taxation was Re 1-8-0 against Re. 1-7-0 in the previous year. That for octroi, Class I (grain), was Re. 0-12-10 as against Re. 0-12-1 and of total octroi Re. 1-5-6 against Re. 1-4-6 recorded last year. The incidence of total taxation in Delhi declined from Rs. 2-1-4 to Re. 1-15-6, but in Amritsar and Lahore it rose to Rs 2-6-10 and Rs. 2-8-3 respectively. In Simla it stood at Rs. 11-2-10, in Kasumpti at Rs. 20-1-2, in Dalhousie at Rs. 8-8-0 and in Murree at Rs. 6 6-0. These figures all show increases on those of last year. The general upward tendency suggests that the population is able to bear more than the prescribed standard of Re. 1 per head without difficulty.

Octroi.

69. The general working of the octroi tax was satisfactory. The question of collection is receiving special attention in Lahore and Siálkot, where considerable room for improvement existed; the causes of the more noticeable increases and decreases and the question of the revision of schedules have already been noticed. The cost of collection as is to be expected varies roughly in an inverse ratio with the proceeds of the tax. It varied in the year under report from 53 and 45 per cent. in the Notified Areas of Shádiwál and Rámdás, and 31 per cent. in the Municipalities of Jhelum to Rs. 5-2-1 per cent. in Delhi and Rs. 4-2-10 per cent. in Lahore. It is satisfactory to note that both in Lahore and Amritsar the cost of collection has declined in the year.

Other taxes.

70. From Delhi it is reported that the tax-payers have become accustomed to the house-tax which was so unpopular at its first institution. Direct taxation is seldom popular, but no special difficulties calling for note have occurred in the year.

Refunds.

71. The question of refunds has received attention in most Municipalities where the system is in force, although the general overhauling of the system is deferred until the revision of the octroi schedules is complete. Farídabad and Sonepat have framed refund rules during the year, and the rules of the Delhi Municipality, which refunded a percentage of Rs. 4-11-4 on the gross realisation, were revised. The Hoshiárpur Municipality refunded only 2·95 per cent. and was apparently unable to meet its claims. Ferozepore is again unfavourably noticed, and the refunds amounted to only 1·20 per cent. of the gross recoveries, and in Jagráon and Fázilka through trade continues to be taxed. In Amritsar, the great centre of through trade, the refunds amounted to 14 per cent., and claims amounting to Rs. 4,465 only were left pending at the close of the year. The operations of the bonded warehouses call for no special remark. In many places traders prefer to store their goods in private warehouses outside Municipal limits in order to avoid demands for rent and in some cases to secure better facilities for gambling on their goods.

GENERAL.

Plague and health of towns.

72. Plague was again prevalent in almost all the Municipal towns of the Delhi, Jullundur and Lahore Divisions; in the Multán Division, beyond a few imported cases in Multán itself, Maghiána was the only Municipality visited, and there the ravages of the disease were severe. It increased largely in the Ráwalpindi Division, and its appearance in Ráwalpindi created a panic which resulted in the flight of the greater part of the population. It is to be regretted that on the outbreak of the disease in Bhera most of the members of the Committee deserted the place, and the few that remained rendered no assistance. Of the larger towns Amritsar and Lahore both suffered considerably. The danger of loss of goods left unprotected is a great obstacle in the minds of the much tried people of the Jullundur District, against the evacuation of their houses, when plague has occurred. Cholera appeared sporadically; there were 91 cases in Delhi. Cases of small-pox also occurred.

Fires.

73. An outbreak of fire occurred in a cotton factory at Hissar and a severe fire occurred at Sohna, while in Amritsar losses estimated at Rs. 23,410 are reported to have occurred from the same cause; in Dharmsála a serious fire resulting in the destruction of many valuable records occurred in the District Offices.

26. Military (Volunteers).

Strength and distribution of Volunteer Force.

74. The strength of the Volunteer Corps on the 31st March 1904 is reported to have been as follows:—

Corps.	Company.	Station.	Officers.	Non-Commissioned Officers.	Privates.	Total enrolled strength.	Total number of efficients.	Sergeant-Instructors.
Punjab Light Horse.	...	Field Officers and Staff	5	...	...	5	5	4
	A	Lahore	3	7	38	48	45	
	B	Ambála	2	8	39	49	49	
	C	Ráwalpindi	3	8	56	67	65	
	D	Pálampur	1	1	6	8	7	
	...	Reservists	2	2	46	50	39	
		Total ...	16	26	185	227	210	4
1st Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps.	...	Field Officers and Staff	7	2	...	2	2	10
	A	Lahore	2	18	51	69	60	
	B		2	10	62	72	67	
	C		2	7	52	59	59	
	Half Company Cadets	Ditto	...	4	43	47	47	
	D	Ráwalpindi	2	6	120	126	124	
	E	Amritsar	2	7	20	36	36	
	F	Delhi	3	2	28	30	30	
	G	Murree	3	3	57	60	60	
	H	Ditto	2	6	33	39	37	
	K	Ferozepore	...	7	42	49	49	
	L	Siálkot and Srinagar	3	6	44	50	50	
	I	Dharmsála	1	...	11	11	11	
	...	Reservists	2	...	83	83	42	
	...	Add for Active Officers	...	...	...	28	25	
	...	Add for Supernumerary Officers	...	...	...	19	3	
		Total ...	31	78	655	780	702	10
Simla Volunteer Rifles.	...	Field Officers and Staff	5	...	...	5	4	3
	A	Simla	3	9	41	53	51	
	B		2	11	86	99	94	
	C		2	8	35	45	44	
	D		1	8	34	43	43	
	E		2	10	79	91	88	
	Det.	Kasauli	1	...	15	16	16	
	...	Reservists	1	1	50	52	13	
	...	Honorary and Supernumerary Members	2	...	...	2	...	
		Total ..	19	47	340	406	353	3
North Western Railway Volunteer Rifles.	...	Field Officers and Staff	10	...	...	10	10	13
	A	Karáchi to Jungshahi	3	8	62	73	73	
	B	Khánpur to Montgomery and Rojhanwáli	2	12	119	133	133	
	C	Lahore	9	14	163	186	182	
	D	Pathánkot to Lála Músa	4	14	75	93	91	
	E	Jullundur to Ambála and Bhatinda ...	1	5	62	68	68	
	F	Saháranpur to Gháziabad and Jhínd ...	1	9	122	132	132	
	G	Kotri to Radhan	2	7	68	77	77	
	H	Pathánkot to Lála Músa	3	12	107	122	122	
	I	Jacobabad to Quetta	4	9	57	70	70	
	K	Jhelum to Peshâwar	6	19	107	132	132	
	L	Rohri to Ruk	7	12	83	102	102	
	M	Karáchi City	1	3	66	70	70	
		Total ...	53	124	1 091	1,262	1 262	13
		GRAND TOTAL ...	119	275	2,271	2,675	2,527	30

Inspections.

75. The Punjab Light Horse, the 1st Punjab Volunteer Rifle Corps and the North-Western Railway Volunteer Rifles were inspected in March 1904, and the Simla Volunteer Rifles were inspected in September 1903. The results were considered satisfactory.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the reports and statistical tables noted below :—

Agriculture.—(1) Report on the operations of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Punjab, for the year ending 30th September 1903.

(2) Annual Report of the Experimental Farm, Lyallpur, for the kharíf and rabi seasons 1902-03.

(3) Annual Report of the Punjab Veterinary College and of the Civil Veterinary Department, Punjab, for the year 1903-04.

(4) Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year 1st October 1902 to 30th September 1903.

Weather and Crops.—(1) Report on the Meteorology and Climatology of the Punjab for the year 1903-04.

(2) Punjab Season and Crops Report for 1903-04.

Horticulture.—Annual Report on the Government Agri-Horticultural Gardens, Lahore, for the year ending 31st March 1904.

Forests.—Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Punjab for 1903-04.

Manufactures.—Report on the working of the Factories Act during the year 1903.

Mines and Quarries.—(1) Reports on the working of the Dandot Colliery for the half-years ending 30th June 1903 and 31st December 1903.

(2) Statement showing the produce of minerals and gems for the calendar year 1903.

Manufactures.—Report on the working of the Factories Act during the year 1903.

Trade.—(1) Annual Returns of the Internal Land Trade of the Punjab for the year ending March 31st, 1904, and the review of the progress of trade during the past triennium.

(2) Report on the External Land Trade of the Punjab for the year 1903-04.

(3) Report by the Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies on the working of the Joint Stock Companies in the Punjab during the year 1903-04.

Irrigation.—Revenue Report of the Irrigation Department in the Punjab for the year ending 31st March 1904.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

Agriculture.—Prices and Wages in India, 21st issue, 1904.

Weather and Crops.—Agricultural Statistics of India, 18th issue, Tables 3 H, 4-H, 7, 7-A, 9 and 10-E.

Mines and Quarries.—Statistics of Mineral Production in India, 6th issue, 1904.

Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India under the Indian Mines Act (VIII of 1901) for the year ending 31st December 1903.

Manufactures.—Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Table XIX.

Railways.—Administration Report on Railways in India for the Calendar year 1903.

Trade.—Accounts of the trade carried by rail and river in India, 16th issue, 1904.]

27. Agriculture.

Experimental Farm.

76. Special attention has been devoted during the year to the working of the new experimental farm at Lyallpur in the Chenab Colony. The Punjab being the principal wheat-producing Province in India, this crop has naturally been the object of most careful study. The classification of the various kinds of wheat grown is in progress, and wheat variety experiments have been advanced a stage, and a certain number of varieties have been selected as superior kinds suit-

ed to the colony. Messrs. Ralli Brothers have given useful help in this matter by examining and appraising the value from a commercial point of view of various samples. Cotton too has been carefully attended to, and the encouraging results which were obtained last year from American cotton at Hissar, have been repeated at Lyallpur, where the experiments will in future be conducted. Agricultural shows have been inaugurated at Lyallpur and Ferozepore, and though they were not very successful, this was hardly to be expected at a first attempt. Efforts have also been continued to improve the cultivation of the date palm, and it has been established that nothing can be expected from the present haphazard system of cultivation followed in the Province, where the tree is self-produced and is left very much to its own devices. If success is to be obtained systematic cultivation must be practised.

Veterinary and Live Stock. Punjab Veterinary College.

77. The competition for admission to the Veterinary College at Lahore has largely increased, and the supply of Veterinary Assistants is still not in excess of the demand. The difficulty lies rather in training sufficient men. When the College is amalgamated with the Veterinary College at Ajmir, as is now contemplated, there should be an even greater activity.

Civil Veterinary Department.

78. The Army Remount and the Civil Veterinary Departments have now been definitely separated, and the latter has been reorganised to deal almost exclusively with cattle. The need for this has long been apparent, as cattle disease in its various forms is always virulent in the Province. Inoculation for rinderpest, which has now passed beyond the experimental stage, is winning the confidence of the people, and efforts are being made to obtain a larger supply of serum. Satisfactory progress has been made generally in the development of Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries. The number of Veterinary Assistants has been increased, and a new grade of 6 Inspectors has been sanctioned to control them. Two Superintendents have also been allowed for, and the Department is one from which, in its reorganised condition, much good may be expected in a field which has hitherto been only too scantily explored.

Agricultural pests.

79. The continuous cloudy weather of February and early March caused a good deal of rust on the experimental farm at Lyallpur, and the opportunity was taken to submit samples to the Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India. The nature of the rust was successfully analysed, but no remedy could be suggested beyond the endeavour to develope the inherent power of the wheat plant to resist the disease by selection and hybridization. No other special troubles of this nature were reported.

Loans to Agriculturists.

80. The question of simplifying the accounts which have to be kept up in all cases of loans to agriculturists is under discussion, as are also the methods by which well construction may be encouraged. Otherwise the year has been one of little incident. The drought in the Hissar and Rohtak Districts of the Delhi Division resulted, of course, in considerable activity in operations under the Agriculturists' Loans Act, but this is always the case when seasons have been unpropitious.

Prices.

81. A new statement, No. V, has been added to the season and crops report during the year to exhibit the wholesale prices per maund at Delhi, Lahore, Multán and Ráwalpindi for rice (unhusked), wheat, barley, jowár, bájra, maize, gram, rape, raw sugar, cleaned cotton and jowár stalks. The statement also shows retail prices per maund for firewood and salt. The result is that, generally speaking, there has been a marked steady downward tendency in the case of food-grains, rape, straw and fodder; whilst raw sugar has fluctuated, and cleaned cotton owing to speculations in America and the part failure of the American crop has risen steadily, and has finished over Rs. 6 per maund dearer than at the beginning of the year. The price of firewood remains unchanged at Multán and Delhi, but is still rising in Lahore and Ráwalpindi. The export figures for wheat during the year established a record, being over 23 million maunds as compared with over 14 millions in 1902-03.

28. Weather and Crops.

82. The monsoon broke on July 15th, when copious rain fell all over the Province, and continued throughout August. Then from September 10th to 12th there was a further adequate downpour. Thus the season was one of a rather late monsoon, well sustained throughout August, followed by a seasonable fall at a time when it was most beneficial for the kharíf harvest as well as for rabi sowings. The result was an all-round good kharíf harvest, except in a few tracts which missed the general rainfall, and the crop was returned as an 18-anna on an average of one rupee. The winter rains were also generally good, and the spring harvest was also much above the average, the failed area amounting to only 10 per cent. as against 19 per cent. last year. Only Delhi, Gurgaon and parts of Rohtak and Ferozepore suffered from want of rain, whilst a disastrous epidemic of plague in the Shahpur District scattered the newly arrived colonists on the Jhelum Canal, and much of the crops was lost owing to excessive delay in harvesting. The remarks under this section refer, it will be noticed, to the kharíf harvest of 1903 and the rabi harvest of 1904. The land revenue administration report refers to the conditions prevailing in the kharíf and rabi of 1902-03. General.

83. The area under the spring crops has risen since last year owing to climatic conditions from 54·1 to 56·6 per cent., the most noticeable increase being under the head of gram, which covered 11·4 in place of 9·6 per cent. The area under maize in the kharíf was contracted owing to the late monsoon, which also prevented the expansion of the cotton crop, which might otherwise have been expected. In the Hánsi Tahsíl of the Hissar District, however, it is worth noticing that cotton has entirely displaced rice, and this crop has also increased in popularity in the Lahore District. The change in the former has resulted in a very marked improvement in the health of the people. Distribution of Crops.

84. The area irrigated from all sources rose by 325,345 to 9,678,885 acres during the year, and it may be calculated that about 46 per cent. of the normally cropped area in the Province is now protected in this manner. Of this about 25 per cent. is due to canals and the rest to well and tank irrigation. The good rainfall of course somewhat contracted the area which needed water, but in spite of this new canals and wells continue to swell the area under protection. Irrigation.

29. Horticulture.

85. The Shahdara, Shálimár, Kudsia and Roshnára gardens continue to be kept up, but at a loss, and there has been the usual distribution of young fruit trees from the Mahásu Orchard. Special activity has been shown in the management of the Lahore Agri-Horticultural Gardens, to which a grant of Rs. 20,000 was made during the year, to be expended under the directions of a Committee, with a view to making the gardens worthy of the capital of the Province. New roads have already been made and old nurseries cleared, and the conservatories have been properly fitted up. The work is still in progress and is receiving attention. General.

30. Forests.

86. The area of Departmental Reserved Forests underwent a net decrease of 25,765 acres (40 square miles). In Shahpur 26,307 acres were "disforested" for colonization and canal purposes, in Multán 13 acres for the canal and in Jhelum 109 acres in favour of villagers. On the other hand, there were increases aggregating 664 acres owing to corrections of returns and river action. Alteration in area. Reserved Forests.

87. The Protected Forests show a net decrease of 7,726 acres (12 square miles) principally due to the notification of 7,911 acres in the Gurdáspúr District under Chapter IV of the Forest Act and to the fact that 15,469 acres in Multán were "disforested" and made over to the Irrigation Department. Protected Forests.

88. Under "Unclassed State Forests" 26,195 acres (41 square miles) were added in Shahpur after "disforestation" from Reserved Forests pending transfer to the Colonization and Canal Departments. In Shahpur and Lahore 85,585 acres (134 square miles) were made over to the Colonization Officers and in Unclassed State Forests.

Montgomery 26,064 acres (41 square miles) were made over to the Civil Department for cultivation purposes. In the Gurdáspūr District 7,911 acres of Unclassed State Forests were transferred to Protected Forests. There was a net decrease of 93,957 acres (147 square miles) in the area of Unclassed State Forests during the year.

Leased Forests.

89. The area of the Leased Forests decreased from 347,007 acres (542 square miles) at the commencement of the year to 345,115 acres (539 square miles) at the end of the year. These leased forests had in previous reports been erroneously classed under Reserved and Unclassed State Forests. The total area of the different classes of forests under the Forest Department at the close of the year was—

	Acres.	Square miles.
Reserved Forests	1,226,535	1,916
Protected Forests	3,141,654	4,909
Unclassed State Forests	1,224,888	1,914
Leased Forests	345,115	539
Total	5,938,192	9,278

Forest Settlements.

90. The Shahpur Kandi Forests, 12 square miles, were declared Protected Forests. Final orders on the settlement of Chhota and Bara Bangáhal Forests were issued during the year. Orders in the cases of the jágír forests of Kángra and of the Bhedpur forest of Shahpur have not yet issued.

Reserves for Camel Corps.

91. Five areas of Unclassed State Forests, aggregating 15 square miles in the Montgomery District, required for Sillahdar Camel Corps browsing were notified as proposed Reserved Forests.

Demarcation.

92. During the year 339 miles of boundaries were newly demarcated and 2,876 miles were repaired. The total expenditure was Rs. 5,748 as compared with Rs. 3,412 in 1902-03.

Surveys.

93. Survey operations were conducted by the Imperial Forest Survey Branch in the Jhelum and Lahore Divisions where detailed surveys (4″ scale) of 183 and 26 square miles and boundary surveys (4″ scale) of 1,370 and 386 linear miles, respectively, were made.

Working Plans

94. The provisions of Working Plans were, generally speaking, adhered to. No new Working Plans were sanctioned during the year. The Kángra Working Plan was completed. In Bashahr 68 square miles in the Sutlej Valley and 117 square miles in the Pabar Valley were taken in hand during the year in addition to the 29 square miles of the previous year. Plans for the Hill States of Theog, Biláspur and Mailog were sanctioned during the year, so that now Working Plans have been completed for ten of the Simla Hill States and are still required for six. For eight small States no Working Plans are required. A revised Working Plan for the Shahdara Plantation was sanctioned during the year.

General protection.

95. There were 4,484 cases of forest offences as compared with 4,017, the average of the three preceding years. The increase being principally in cases compounded in Jhelum and Kángra. The total number of cases put into Court was 1,031 as compared with a similar average of 1,146. Of the 902 cases disposed of during the year, 772 or 85 per cent. were convicted and 130 acquitted. Under Section 67 of the Forest Act 3,276 cases were compounded for Rs. 7,843-7-3, the average amount per case and per person being Rs. 2-6-4 and Re. 1-8-4 respectively as compared with Rs. 3-8-1 and Rs. 2-1-11, the average of the three preceding years.

Protection from fire.

96. During the year 227 fires occurred burning 6,940 acres against 203 fires and 17,938 acres in the previous year. The year for the forests in general was a favourable one. The precentage of area burnt to the total area under the Forest Department was 0·1 as compared with 0·3 in 1902-03 and 0·2 in 1901-02.

97. The areas closed and opened to grazing were as follows:— Protection from cattle.

Year.	*Entirely closed.*	*Partially closed.*	*Open.*
	Square miles.	Square miles.	Square miles.
1902-03	657	1,153	7,671
1903-04	698	1,048	7,532

98. The year was a bad one for deodár, a large proportion of the seed collected having been attacked by insects. Cultural operations are conducted in all the Divisions, hills and plains, the opening balance of areas under this treatment was 6,475 acres, the additional areas treated were 2,373 acres, 2 acres were transferred to "Plantations" and 2,912 struck off as failure. Reproduction, Natural and Artificial.

99. The raising and planting of Robinia seems likely to prove a failure, that of Spanish chestnut is still a success in some Divisions and several species of Eucalyptus are successful in Chánga Mánga. Plants of Podophyllum emodi are still alive in Ráwalpindi and some in Chamba are doing well. An experiment with the bamboo (D. Strictus) in Jhelum failed. Experiments.

100. The following statement gives a summary of the produce removed from the forests during the year under report:— Outturn of Forest Produce.

	Timber.	Fire-wood.	Bamboos.	Grass.	Grazing.	Minor produce.
	Cubic feet.	Cubic feet, solid.	Number.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Reserved Forests	483,146	3,547,779	901,123	36,110	119,428	15,819
Protected Forests	1,452,685	18,354,359	26,819	26,735	173,884	61,778
Unclassed State Forests ...	232,743	2,429,163	51,687	631	61,130	9,327
Leased Forests	2,250,728	2,950,237	...	18,032	17,434	16,693
Total for 1903-04 ...	4,419,302	27,287,538	979,629	81,508	3,71,876	103,617
Total for 1902-03 ...	3,066,703	39,332,253	977,204	77,226	3,58,947	89,895

101. The following statement compares the revenue and expenditure of the year with those of the previous year:— Financial Results.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Surplus.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1903-04	16,51,077	9,55,918	6,95,159
1902-03	15,91,665	11,40,987	4,50,678
1897-98 to 1901-02 average	12,95,918	8,86,611	4,09,307

The year of report shows better results, the receipts being higher and the expenditure lower than 1902-03.

ARBORICULTURE.

102. This subject will be dealt with in the report next year.

31. Mines and Quarries.

103. Small quantities of gold are obtained from gold washings in the streams in Ambála, Jhelum, Miánwáli and Jhelum Districts. The total quantity produced was under 110 ounces. Gold.

104. Two tons of iron were produced in the Simla District. Iron.

105. One thousand seven hundred and ninety-three gallons of petroleum were obtained from the Ráwalpindi and Miánwáli Districts, and sent to Ráwalpindi where it is utilized. Petroleum.

Coal.

106. At the Dandot Colliery in the Jhelum District, which is worked by the North-Western Railway, 43,714 tons of coal were produced as compared with 55,373 tons of coal last year. The colliery showed a loss on the year's working of Rs. 43,708, but the gross profit since the commencement of the operations to December 1903 amounted to Rs. 10,30,123. The working of the colliery has been hampered by water and by the soft nature of the floor and roof which renders drainage difficult. The scarcity of labour has also become more and more pronounced as the mines get further from the day-light. The number of persons employed at the Dandot collieries is 1,403, of whom 934 work under ground and 469 above ground. Females are not employed underground in these mines.

Salt.

107. There are four salt mines in the Punjab which come within the scope of the Mining Act, VIII of 1901, and which give employment to 1,311 persons, 1,189 below ground and 122 above ground. The output from these mines during the year was 90,667 tons, and the quantity of the salt worked was good.

Slate.

108. There are two slate quarries, one at Kanihára in the Kángra District and the other in the Gurgaon District. The Kángra mine gives employment to 200 persons, of whom 150 work below ground. The Gurgaon quarry employs 48 persons ; 12 below ground. 4,000 tons of slate were obtained from these quarries.

Mining lease.

109. A thirty years' mining lease for stibnite and galena, commencing from 1st June 1903, has recently been sanctioned in the Kángra District.

32. Manufactures.

Large Industries.

110. There are numerous cotton-ginning and pressing factories in the cotton growing districts. The largest of these is at Hissar. The number of cotton-spinning mills has increased from 5 to 9. There are 11 large woollen weaving establishments, not classed as mills, besides the woollen mill at Dháriwál and cloth factory at Delhi. The most important of these are the large carpet manufactories at Amritsar and Ambála. The number of flour mills has increased by three. Iron and brass foundry works are not very important. There are five; three at Delhi and one each at Lahore and Siálkot. The indigo factories formerly existing appear to have ceased working. Carriage building, tent making, the manufacture of furniture, and soap and oil works, are to be found in one or more districts. There is a distillery where spirit is manufactured in the European method at Amritsar and a sugar factory at Sujánpur.

Factories and the Factory Act.

Number of factories.

111. The report on the working of the Factories Act for 1903 shows an increase during the year of 22 from 166 to 188 in the total number of factories, worked wholly or partly by steam power. This increase occurred in the private factories, *viz.*, in the cotton-ginning and spinning factories, and in ice, soap and flour mills.

Inspections and general remarks.

112. Of the factories which were working during the year all but 7 were inspected. The provisions of the Factory Act in respect of a weekly holiday to the operatives are generally observed. The sanitary arrangements and conditions of the factories in the Province are reported to be good, and the requirements of the Inspectors in this respect are enforced by the District Magistrates. The health of the operatives, notwithstanding the plague, is reported to have been very good in all the factories throughout the Province. In regard to the employment of women and children there has been some disposition to evade the provisions of the law, and it has been necessary to institute prosecutions in some cases.

Accidents.

113. There were 156 accidents during the year. There has been slight increase in fatal and serious accidents and a decrease in minor ones.

33. Trade.

114. The trade returns are prepared for the financial year beginning with April 1st. A review of these returns for the triennium 1901-02 to 1903-04 shows, as is only natural, that the agricultural conditions within the Province are reflected in the figures for the exchange of commodities. A bumper spring harvest in 1901 was succeeded by a nearly normal year in 1902, while the past year has been above normal in its outturn. In correspondence with these conditions the trade returns show that the middle year of the triennium has noticeably lower figures for exports than either of the other two years. On the other hand, the larger surplus for exports in 1901 brought money into the country which was at once followed by an increased demand for imports in the following year, and accordingly we find that the imports of 1902 are larger than in either of the other years. During the three years in question the figures for imports are fortunately not noticeably swollen by large imports of food-grains introduced to supplement scanty harvests. As already remarked, the crops were over the normal rather than below it. The following figures exhibit the total trade above referred to exclusive of animals and treasure :— Total Trade of the year.

Year.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Maunds.	Value in rupees.	Maunds	Value in rupees.
1901-02	20,305,134	15,48,03,623	38,387,408	15,51 90,401
1902-03	25,278,300	15,55,41,800	26,294,933	11,89,93,028
1903-04	21,934,932	15,09,47,156	36,105,550	14,66,66,094

115. The river-borne trade is of little importance. The bulk of exports by this method of transport naturally far exceeds that of imports. The latter is a comparatively insignificant item, and its variations are but slight during the past six years. Exports have continually declined during the triennium. The figures for the year under report are maunds 1,184,422, value Rs. 34,45,575. The increased utilisation of railway facilities sufficiently accounts for the continued decline, which can hardly be expected to be arrested. River-borne Trade.

116. The trade in cotton and woollen goods of European manufacture was affected abnormally on the side of increased imports by the Coronation Darbár in January 1903. Moreover, the Delhi City Railway Returns for some months before and after the Darbár were not reliable, so that the detailed figures for these articles cannot be usefully examined. Cotton piece-goods of Indian manufacture as well as those imported from Europe have, however, on the whole fluctuated little, and the trade has been well maintained. Metals and kerosine oil have been increasingly imported during the triennium, and of other articles with which the country cannot supply itself, we find that steal rails and fish-plates and railway materials generally have been largely and increasingly imported. *Ghi* shows a decline from $17\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs imported in 1901-02 to nearly $9\frac{4}{5}$ lakhs in 1902-03 and 6 lakhs of rupees worth less than in 1903-04. This is probably due to slackness in the Kashmir traffic due to good harvests in the Punjab and perhaps also in some measure to the general disorganisation of trade with that country owing to plague. The sugar trade requires some notice. In the three years ending April 1902, imports fluctuated between 144 and 164 lakhs of rupees. During the last three years $2\frac{1}{3}$ crores worth were imported in 1901-02, $1\frac{4}{5}$ crores worth in 1902-03 and 2 crores worth in 1903-04. It thus appears that 1901-02 was a year of abnormally heavy imports, to be accounted for by the anticipation of the heavy countervailing duties imposed in 1902 to check the importation of bounty-fed sugars into India. In spite of the continuance of these duties up to August 31st, 1903, and subsequent orders of the Government of India directed against products of the bounty system, the import of sugar has been maintained at a high figure, Imports.

and the inference would seem to be that the demand is a large one and must be met by an adequate supply. Home sugar has been exported to a greater extent than in either of the two preceding years. The timber trade on the whole shows no signs of decline. Dried fruits and nuts experienced a better year in 1903-04 than in 1902 03 as did most other articles, including dyes and tans, gunny bags and cloth, spices, wrought leather and foreign raw silk.

Export Trade.

117. The list of exported articles which requires notice is not a long one. The value of raw cotton exported shows a very satisfactory continued rise from 127 lakhs in 1901-02 to 129 lakhs in 1902-03 and 255 lakhs in 1903-04. Hides and skins after declining from 53 lakhs of rupees worth in 1901-02 to 45 lakhs worth in 1902-03 have again risen to 63 lakhs worth during the past year. The returns for exports of rape and mustard seed in 1901-02 are abnormally high, owing to a remarkably good crop in the rabi of 1900, which caused $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores worth to be exported in 1901-02, while in the two succeeding years the value was only $9\frac{3}{4}$ and $8\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs respectively. Other oil-seeds were also more largely exported in 1901-02, but not to such a disproportionate extent. The exports of raw wool have risen. The export of metals has risen by over 2 lakhs of rupees, while liquors have declined from the figures of 1901-02 and 1902-03, both of which years were probably affected by the Coronation Darbár demands.

Distribution of Trade.

118. Karáchi continues gradually to increase her share of the total import trade of the Province. This now amounts to 37 per cent. of the total imports. *Pari passu* with the increase of Karáchi the percentage of imports received from the United Provinces has fluctuated in the direction of decline. The advance of Karáchi is still more noticeable under exports, of which this port monopolises no less than 54 per cent., to which figure it has risen from 38 per cent. in 1902-03 and 39 per cent. in 1901-02. The Chenab Colony exports are mainly responsible for having brought Karáchi to the prominent position which the latest figures indicate. The North-Western Railway has also considerably increased the facilities for dealing with the port.

TRADE WITH TRANS-FRONTIER COUNTRIES.

Afghanistan Trade.

119. Since the separation from the Punjab of the North-West Frontier Province the external trade of the Punjab is now almost confined to interchange of commodities with Kashmír proper and Ladák. The recorded trade with Afghánistán amounts to only three-fourths of a lakh, and the actual bulk is smaller, as the figures include a certain proportion of Balúchistán trade. The imports from Afghánistán appear to have been almost stationary during the last three years, while the exports from the Punjab show a tendency to increase.

Chinese Tibet Trade.

120. Trade with Chinese Tibet with the exception of a sudden rise in exports to that country last year shows no signs of improvement. This rise in exports which is spread over a wide variety of articles, including silver, brass and iron, tea, raw wool, silk, precious stones, and gum, may be due to a recent improvement of a section of the Hindústán-Tibet Road, but the total value of the export trade is still under a lakh of rupees.

Ladak Trade.

121. Ladák trade exhibited a distinct improvement during the last three years. The value of the exports from the Punjab to Ladák is recorded as $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs, of which 2 lakhs are accounted for in European piece-goods. The demand in Ladák for cotton of Indian manufacture is insignificant. Raw wool and charas continue to be principal articles of import from Ladák to the Punjab. The steady import of charas was probably meant to anticipate the enhancement of charas duty introduced on 1st April 1904.

Kashmir Trade.

122. The figures for the trade with Kashmír have been affected by faulty registration and by evasion of custom duties, so that it is impossible to draw any confident conclusions from them. The prevalence of plague during the last three years in the districts traversed and served by the trade has certainly had a most disorganizing effect. And a marked decrease in the export of goods from the Punjab appears to have occurred. This decrease may, however, be apparent only

and due to smuggling to evade the payment of duties levied in Kashmír on cotton piece-goods, wheat, salt and sugar. The smugglers, if this is the explanation, of course avoid the trade registration posts.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and capital of companies.

123. The year 1903-04 was one of considerable activity in joint stock business and closed with 57 companies divided into shares, having an average nominal capital of Rs. 3,17,350 and Rs. 1,56,387 paid up against the corresponding figures, at its opening of 49 companies with Rs. 3,29,714 nominal and Rs. 1,70,307 paid-up capital apiece.

New companies registered.

124. The new companies include a new native bank with 2 lakhs of nominal capital, one cotton-ginning and one cotton-press company, an oil and soap mills and a Native Trading Association having the partly commercial and partly patriotic object of dealing in commodities produced in India. One new company proposes to sell books relating to the Muhammadan religion and to publish periodicals, and another to manufacture the implements of sports and games. Companies do not, however, always confine their activity to the objects set forth in their Memorandum of Association, and one, whose legitimate interests were in wool and silk, decided during the year to make ice also.

Increases and reductions in capital.

125. Eight lakhs were added to the nominal and Rs. 68,000 to the paid-up capital of banks previously registered. Among manufacturing companies, the Himálaya Glass Works in European hands has doubled its nominal capital; while the Punjab Cotton Press Company has taken a similar step, with the apparent intention of extending its operations to many substances and several forms of trade not covered by the original Memorandum of Association. Large increases in paid-up capital appear in the accounts of the company last named, and also of the Amritsar Cotton Mills and the Saranand Company, Limited.

126. The only reduction was made in the capital of the North-Western Railway Co-operative Stores Association, which found itself with more than was required for carrying on its business.

Investment of capital.

127. Mills and presses, with a paid-up capital of over 45 lakhs, account for the larger half of the total paid-up capital, and cotton, wool and silk industries absorb 57 per cent. of this large fraction. Next follows beer with 18 lakhs, and next bank and insurance companies with over 16 lakhs of paid-up capital.

Liquidation and dissolution.

128. Among the companies which are undergoing and have undergone dissolution, 12 in number, manufacturing companies figure rather largely, and leaving those under European control and management out of account, it would seem that the elements of which joint stock companies are generally composed are less well fitted for dealing with manufacturing business than with banking, trading or simple operations, such as cotton pressing and ginning.

Joint stock companies at work.

129. Omitting the Ambála People's Bank, Limited, which is an abortive co-operative credit society that has failed to do any business or to prepare any balance sheet since it came into existence in February 1902, there are now seven banks registered in the Punjab. Five of these are under Native management, with a paid-up capital of over 3 lakhs. In these institutions the educated and professional man and officials, who are the commonest recruits to joint stock undertakings, appear to have blended with the hereditary business man and banker, a combination from which interesting results may be anticipated.

Fees.

130. The income from fees came to Rs. 2,475 against Rs. 1,092 last year. In one case a company failed to pay the fee prescribed for registering a particular document.

34. Public Works.

Total expenditure.

131. The total outlay of the year on Public Works in the Roads and Buildings Branch amounted to nearly 75 lakhs.

Imperial Civil Works.

132. Twelve lakhs were expended on Imperial Civil Works, the most important of which were the new Imperial Civil Secretariat at Simla and the new General Post Office at Lahore.

140. The Dera Gházi Khan protective works survived another flood season, notwithstanding that the attack on the head of the stone bund was unusually severe. When the floods subsided it was found that the big bay, north and east of the stone bund, had silted up. This is very satisfactory, for, although the main stream did not get turned to the western bank, the spring level in and round the town fell 3 or 4 feet, and the health of the city consequently improved very much. Two fascine groynes were constructed by the Irrigation Department,—one about two miles north of the stone bund, and the other just at its down stream end. The effect of these has been shown during the present flood season, for the main stream is now apparently going off to the left bank, and the future security of the town is much more hopeful than it has seemed for many years. Dera Ghazi Khan protective works.

141. The works classified under this head are mainly those of a local character connected with sanitary improvements in towns or with private undertakings, which for convenience are carried out by the Public Works Department. The most important of these are mentioned in the sections on Medical Relief and Sanitation in Chapter VI. Projects aggregating nearly 15 lakhs were either prepared or scrutinized by the officers of the Public Works Department for different local bodies. Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

Railways and Tramways.

142. The Kálka-Simla Railway on the 2 feet 6 inch gauge with its four important tunnels was opened for traffic during the year. The length of the line is 59·44 miles and the cost of construction 141 lakhs. Sanction has been accorded to the construction of a line from Ludhiána to MacLeodganj in connection with the Southern Punjab Railway, a distance of 156 miles, and of a line between Sargodha in the Jhelum Colony and Shorkot Road. Railway extensions in the Punjab.

143. The year was marked by a large increase in the earnings of the railways both in passenger and goods traffic. The income of the North-Western State Railway exceeded that of the previous year by as much as 13 lakhs under the former head, and by over 55 lakhs in goods traffic. These satisfactory results are attributed to the return of the country to prosperous times and to the great "Kumbh" festival which was held at Hardwár after an interval of 12 years. A serious railway accident resulting in the death of 11 passengers and in the injury of 7, occurred in June 1903 at Sukheke, a station in the Gujránwála District between Wazírabád and Lyallpur. Traffic.

144. There are no public tramways in the Punjab, and no railways under provincial control. No Tramways or Provincial Railways.

35. Irrigation.

145. The Indus Inundation Canal system which was formerly classed as a minor work has been transferred to the head of Major Works. There are now eight canal systems classed as Productive Major Works. These are the Western Jumna, the Bari Doab, the Sirhind, the Chenab, the Jhelum, the Upper Sutlej, the Sidhnai and the Indus Canals. Expenditure on capital account was incurred on all these canals except the Sidhnai; but the only important extensions at present in progress are on the Jhelum Canal on which 18 lakhs were expended during the year and the Chenab Canal on which the capital outlay was increased by Rs. 4,61,000. The total area irrigated by all the canals—Imperial, Provincial and Native States—during the year was 6,390,334 acres compared with 5,668,786 acres. Matters of interest relating to the different canals are related below:— General progress of Canals.

146. The rainfall in the Western Jumna area, though generally below the average, was favourable both for kharif and rabi sowings, the winter rain was deficient and the demand for canal water continued until the heavy rain in March made it no longer necessary. The supply in the river was meagre and the demand could not be fully met. The total area irrigated was 663,792 acres, which though above the average is far short of the maximum possible, *viz.*, 809,000 acres. The net income of the year amounted to Rs. 15,04,919, amounting to 8·71 per cent. on the capital outlay. Western Jumna.

Bari Doab.

147. The total irrigated area on the Bari Doab this year is the highest on record. The year was one of very good rainfall which assisted greatly in the maturing of the crops. Heavy floods, however, occurred and did some damage both to the crops and to the canal banks. The total area irrigated was 936,687 acres compared with an average of 870,401. The net income of the year amounted to Rs. 24,97,772, which gives a return of 12·68 per cent. on the capital outlay.

Sirhind Canal.

148. The tract of country supplied by the Sirhind Canal is one in which the annual rainfall barely exceeds 18 inches anywhere and which in the Ferozepore District does not exceed 13 inches. During the year even these figures were not reached, although the winter rains were slightly above the average. There was moreover a short supply in the river in November which necessitated the rotational system of working the branches of the canal being put in force for the remainder of the year. No extensions were made to the canal during the year. That the area irrigated was not up to the average cannot therefore cause any surprise. The total area irrigated by this canal was 1,040,829 acres in British and Native State Branches together, compared with an average of 1,048,271. The profits earned on the British Branches amounted to Rs. 1,835,331, equivalent to 7·40 per cent. on the capital invested.

Chenab Canal.

149. The expenditure incurred during the year and charged to the capital account of the Chenab Canal amounted to Rs. 4,61,404. Two distributaries from the Gugera Branch Upper were completed, and two distributaries, with their minors from the Jhang Branch Lower. The rainfall in January and March, which occurred in this canal area, helped materially to mature the very large rabi crop. A large increase in irrigation, bringing the total irrigated area of the year up to 1,982,714 is due to the extension of cultivation on the distributaries above mentioned.

Jhelum Canal.

150. The capital expenditure incurred on this canal during the year amounted to Rs. 17,95,330. The Main Line, Northern and Southern Branches, and the Northern and Southern Feeders were completed during the year. The Khadir Feeder and the Chenab Escape were also completed with the exception of the works at the Budhi Nalla crossing. Considerable progress has been made towards the completion of the Major and Minor Distributary systems of the canal The canal was closed for three weeks in January and February on account of general rain over the colony. The severity of the plague outbreak in the colony has already been mentioned in this report. The area irrigated amounted to 279,260 acres and the gross revenue was Rs. 2,23,146.

Major Inundation Canals.

151. The year was a favourable one on the three Inundation Canals which are classed as Major Works, *viz.*, the Sidhnai, the Upper Sutlej and the Indus Canals. On the Sidhnai Canal the flow continued for 274 days during the year as compared with an average of 181 days. The supply of water in the Upper Sutlej Inundation Canals and in the Indus Inundation Canals was also favourable and good results were obtained. The Indus river rose in time, maintained a steady high level and subsided seasonably. There were no disturbing floods and rainfall helped the canal supplies at times when it was most needed.

Minor Irrigation Works.

152. The Minor Irrigation Works under the control of the Irrigation Department comprise the Inundation Canals of the Lower Sutlej, the Chenab, Shahpur, Jalalpur, Muzaffargarh, Ghaggar, the Ravi and the Rangoi Inundation Canals. The Ravi Inundation Canals, which were formerly managed by the District Board of Montgomery, were transferred to the Irrigation Branch in October 1903. The year was a favourable one for all these canals. The breach of an embankment on the Chenab caused an inundation on the Muzaffargarh Canals which destroyed a large area of the kharif crop.

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

[Detailed information on the subjects dealt with in this chapter will be found in the following publications:—

(*a*)—DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS.

Land Revenue.—Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Punjab for the agricultural year 1st October 1902 to 30th September 1903.

Canal Revenue.—Revenue Report of the Irrigation Department, Punjab, for the year 1903-04.

Excise and Opium.—Report on the Excise Administration of the Punjab for the year 1903-04.

Salt.—Report on the Administration of the Northern India Salt Revenue Department for the official year 1903-04.

Stamps.—Note on the Stamp Statements of the Punjab for the year 1903-04.

Income Tax.—Punjab Income Tax Report for 1903-04.

Forests.—Progress Report on Forest Administration in the Punjab for 1903-04.

Local Funds.—Review of the Accounts and Administration of District Boards in the Punjab for the year 1903-04.

Municipal Revenues.—Report on the working of Municipalities in the Punjab during the year 1903-04.

(*b*)—FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL STATISTICS OF BRITISH INDIA, ELEVENTH ISSUE.

Salt—Tables III 11 and 12.

Excise—Table V 12.

Stamps—Tables VII 22 to 24.

Income Tax—Tables VIII 2, 3, 8 and 9.

36. Gross Revenue and Expenditure.

153. The balance sheet of the year works out as follows:— General.

The income and expenditure of the Railways, Post Office, Telegraph and Salt Departments are excluded from the account, and Military expenditure and Capital expenditure on canals are also omitted from the calculation.

154. The revenue raised in the Province during 1903-04 is made up as follows, previous year's figures being quoted for comparison:— Details of revenue.

SOURCE OF REVENUE.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Lakhs of rupees.	
Land Revenue ...	230.55	251.42
Irrigation (excluding land revenue due to canals) ...	159.15	175.26
Salt ...	67.02	57.04
Local Rates ...	40.61	44.75
Stamps ...	39.50	40.48
Excise and Opium ...	27.48	28.74
Income Tax ...	14.58	11.70
Forests ...	15.86	17.18
Police ...	7.01	7.05
Civil Works ...	7.14	7.16
Interest ...	2.49	3.46
Law and Justice ...	2.97	3.18
Tribute ...	3.07	2.92
Jails ...	1.88	1.58
All other items ...	12.60	13.84
TOTAL RECEIPTS ...	631.91	665.76

The year was one of steady increase all round, except under the head of Assessed Taxes, which lost 2·88 lakhs as the result of the measures recently taken to raise the minimum limit, and of Salt, the revenue from which fell in consequence of the reduction in duty. The total rise in receipts came to 33·85 lakhs.

Expenditure.

155. The expenditure, excluding expenditure of the Military, Railways, Post Office (Imperial) and Telegraph Departments, Municipal expenditure and Capital expenditure on canals, amounted to 365·37 lakhs in 1903-04. The detailed items, with corresponding figures for the previous year, are given below:—

Departments.	1902-03.	1903-04.
	Lakhs of rupees.	
Irrigation	62·64	62·76
Public Works	57·54	64·37
Land Revenue...	38·65	41·41
Police	37·72	37·56
Law and Justice	33·15	33·62
Medical...	17·88	14·97
Education	15·62	17·29
General Administration	13·54	12·69
Superannuation Allowances and Pensions...	12·77	13·36
Jails	10·25	9·76
Forests...	9·60	11·56
Political	7·10	7·64
Stationery and Printing	4·79	5·28
Salt	3·66	4·23
All other items	24·63	28·87
Total Expenditure	349·54	365·37

It is satisfactory to note that, while the cost of the General Administration, of the Maintenance of the Peace and the Administration of Justice has rather decreased than increased, it has been possible to make considerable additions to the amounts expended on Public Works and Education.

Abstract of Income and Expenditure.

156. The following is an abstract of the gross income and expenditure for 1903-04 as recorded in the books of the Accountant-General, Punjab :—

	Receipts.				Expenditure.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Revenue and Expenditure.	1,73,77,210	2,22,34,835	47,39,942	4,43,51,987	25 92,550	2,22,95,967	38,40,257	2,87,28,774
Contributions...	...	7,52,213	16,200	7,68,413	...	16,200	7,52,213	7,68,413
Debt and remittance heads.	...	...	...	25,45,20,408	...	...	...	27,43,73,358
Total ...	1,73,77,210	2,29,87,048	47,56,142	29,96,40,808	25,92,550	2,23,12,167	45,92,470	30,38,70,545
Opening balance	...	...	...	1,06,13,966	Closing	balance.	...	63,84,229
	1,73,77,210	2,29,87,048	47,56,142	31,02 54,774	25,92,550	2,23,12,167	45,92,470	31,02,54,774

37. Land Revenue.

Increase of Land Revenue.

157. The Land Revenue Collections for the year ending 30th September 1903 have been reviewed in Chapter II, and though the land revenue and the financal year do not entirely correspond, the reasons already given for an increase of income under this head hold good. The receipts for the financial year rose by over 21 lakhs.

38. Irrigation.

Capital Expenditure.

158. The Capital Expenditure to the end of 1903-04 on all canals in operation, for which a Capital Account is kept, inclusive of Contributions towards the Western Jumna, Sirhind and Ghaggar Canals, amounts to just under 1,230 lakhs, of which just over 27 lakhs was spent during the year. Of this over 18 lakhs went into the Jhelum and about 4½ into the Chenab Canal. The Indus Inundation Canals also received attention to the extent of over a lakh.

Income and Expenditure.

159. The income realised during the year came to nearly 201 lakhs, whilst the expenditure, other than Capital and Interest, amounted to about 66⅕ lakhs, thus leaving a profit balance of about 135 lakhs, which represents approximately 12½ per cent. on the total Capital outlay. If Interest charges, amounting to some 40⅗ lakhs, be included in the calculation, the profit balance comes to 95 lakhs, and the percentage to 8·81. The condition of the Irrigation Department generally has been discussed already in Chapter IV.

39. Opium and Excise Revenue.

General.

160. There has been a further increase in the receipts from all classes of excisable commodities dealt with in the report, except opium, and in this latter case a fall of Rs. 18,000 in receipts veils a perceptible, though slight, increase in consumption. It cannot but be expected that with a rise in the standard of material comfort in the Province the consumption of liquor and drugs will gradually increase, and the present degree of indulgence, when averaged per head of population, does not reveal the existence of intemperate habits. There is, however, still too much illicit distillation in the Sikh districts, and to combat this evil retail vend licenses are being issued experimentally at moderate fixed fees in the rural areas of Amritsar, Jullundur, Ferozepore and Ludhiána. The only other item of interest in the year's work has been the raising of the duty on charas from Rs. 2 to Rs. 6 a sér, and the effect of this is being narrowly watched. The proposal to establish a warehouse for charas at Leh in concert with the Kashmir Darbár has been advanced. The trade in bhang calls for no special remarks, and the question of the imposition of a quantitative duty on opium is still under discussion.

40. Salt Revenue.

Effect of the reduction of salt duty.

161. The duty on salt was reduced with effect from the 18th March 1903: in the case of salt obtained from the mines in the Mandi State from 7 annas 6 pies to 6 annas a British maund, and in the case of other salt from 2 rupees 8 annas to 2 rupees a British maund. This reduction has therefore been in operation during the year, and its effect on the revenues and on the price and consumption of salt can now be estimated. As regards the revenue, there has been a decrease amounting to 10 lakhs, and seeing that at the same time there has been an increase of sales, especially of the better class of rock salt obtainable in the Punjab mines, there can be no doubt that the decrease in revenue is the immediate result of the reduction in duty. It appears, moreover, that the price of the salt has responded to the reduction in the duty. The Commissioner, Northern India Salt Revenue, reports that in the case of the Kohát and Mandi salt the reduction in price was small, but in the Punjab, the United Provinces and Rájpútána prices, both wholesale and retail, show that consumers have received practically the full benefit of the reduction of duty.

Cis-Indus and Kalabagh Salt Mines.

162. Two million six hundred and sixty-two thousand seven hundred and eighty maunds of salt were sold from the cis-Indus and Kálabágh Mines compared with 2,556,951 maunds sold last year. An outbreak of plague which commenced at Khewra on the 5th March 1904 interfered seriously with work at the depôt. The balances of salt uncleared at the close of the year was therefore large. The decrease in the Punjab salt revenues of the year is almost entirely accounted for in the cis-Indus and Kálabágh Mines, the total proceeds from these mines amounting to Rs. 55,25,000 compared with Rs. 65,13,000 last year.

Mandi Mines.

163. The reduction in the salt duty has not yet produced any marked effect upon the trade in Mandi salt. The sales during the year amounted to 126,555 maunds compared with 129,862 maunds in 1902-03. It is considered probable that the reduction in duty will enable cis-Indus rock salt to push back the Mandi salt.

Sultanpur Salt Works.

164. A small but satisfactory improvement in the trade in Sultánpuri salt occurred during the year, and the sales rose from 59,353 maunds to 72,946 maunds.

41. Stamp Revenue.

165. The present is not a year of a triennial report. The annual statements, however, show a rise of nearly a lakh in the gross receipts ; this is divided in fairly even proportions between the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act. It apparently indicates a continuation of the process of recovery from the temporary effects of the Punjab Alienation of Land Act. The only other noteworthy matter is the increase from Rs. 1,48,310 to Rs. 1,59,616 on account of one-anna receipt stamps. This branch of revenue is steadily developing and there is undoubtedly a growing acquaintance with the law on the subject. Receipts.

42. Assessed Taxes.

166. This is not a triennial report year for Assessed Taxes, but the subject presents special features, in that it is the first year in which, in accordance with the provisions of Act XI of 1903, the minimum taxable limit has been Rs. 1,000 instead of Rs. 500. This has caused a fall in receipts of nearly 3 lakhs, but this was only expected, as last year the two lowest classes of assessees, now exempt, paid nearly 3½ lakhs. The possibility of reducing Income Tax establishments is now under discussion. Receipts.

43. Forest Revenue.

[Forest revenue and expenditure have already been noticed in Chapter IV].

44. Provincial Revenues.

167. The income and expenditure under the Provincial section of accounts during the past three years have been as follows :— Income and Expenditure.

Year.	Opening balance.	Income.	Expenditure.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1901-02	*Nil.*	2,22,50,328	2,07,53,978	14,96,350
1902-03	14,96,350	2,25,09,616	2,14,80,846	25,25,120
1903-04	25,25,120	2,29,87,048	2,23,12,168	32,00,000

The figures for 1903-04 are not final, but are liable to correction in next year's Administration Report. The balance of Rs. 25,25,120 at the end of 1902-03 includes a special grant of 10 lakhs made by the Government of India for outlay on special works in the following year. A balance of 32 lakhs at the end of 1903-04 is guaranteed by the Government of India, and includes 20 lakhs for the extension and improvement of Simla and 2 lakhs for works of public utility in the year 1904-05. The revenue classed as Provincial consists of a share of the receipts of the general revenues, the principal heads of which, with the exception of Provincial Rates, have been discussed above. Provincial Rates on land include the rate levied under the District Boards Act, 1883, which is noticed in the following section, and the Patwári Cess, the expenditure of which is shown under Land Revenue (Local). The greater portion of the expenditure excluding Irrigation expenditure, shown in the table in paragraph 155, is Provincial. The wholly Imperial heads of expenditure are Assignments, Political, Political Pensions, Ecclesiastical and Salt. The Provincial settlement, which was entered into in March 1897, for the reasons stated in last year's report, continues till 31st March 1905, when a permanent settlement will be made.

45. Local Funds.

168. The system of a peripatetic audit of the accounts of District Boards has been introduced. Audit.

Balances.

169. The closing balances at the credit of the different District Boards on the 31st March 1904 aggregated Rs. 10,75,000 against Rs. 9,80,000 at the end of the previous year, showing an improvement of Rs. 95,000. Siálkot was the only District Board which overdrew its balance. It started with an opening balance, which owing to suspensions and remissions of revenue, in the previous year, had already fallen below the prescribed minimum, and the income in 1903-04 suffered a further loss of Rs. 13,000 as compared with the estimates, mainly owing to the suspension of the cattle fair at Gulu Shah, a measure which became necessary in consequence of an outbreak of cholera. The account of this Board was adjusted by a contribution from the Provincial Government subject to repayment hereafter. The balances of the Hissar, Ambála, Jullundur and Multán District Boards fell below the prescribed minimum.

Income.

170. Eliminating Debt Head transactions, the income of the year amounted to Rs. 31,68,000, compared with Rs. 29,82,000 last year, and the expenditure to Rs. 30,89,000 compared with Rs. 28,29,000. The only important increase in the income was under the heading of Provincial Rates. The increase under this head amounted to Rs. 2,25,000, and, as in the case of Land Revenue receipts, it was due to the favourable agricultural conditions, which resulted in the realization of a great part of the revenue suspended in previous years as well as of the current demand.

Expenditure.

171. The net increase in expenditure amounted to Rs. 2,60,000, which occurred mainly under Contributions (Rs. 2,28,000) and Civil Works (Rs. 1,04,000), partly counterbalanced by reduced expenditure under Medical (Rs. 67,000).

Contributions.

172. This is the adjusting head through which payments made by the Provincial Government to District Boards and *vice versâ* are adjusted. Compared with the previous year, there is a decrease of Rs. 33,000 on the receipt side, which is due mainly to certain special contributions having been made in the previous year for Primary School buildings. On the expenditure side there is an increase of Rs. 2,28,000, which is due mainly to the favourable financial condition of the Boards having enabled them to repay to the Provincial Government contributions which had become due in previous years, but which had been suspended.

Civil Works.

173. The expenditure aggregated Rs. 9,04,000 against Rs. 8,01,000, an increase of about one lakh of rupees. About three-fourths of this increased expenditure was incurred on Communications. The Jullundur District Board spent Rs. 36,000 on this object, and in Gurgaon a new metalled road was constructed by the District Board at a cost of Rs 17,000. The Ferozepore District Board spent Rs. 15,000 on the construction of new and the improvement of old rest-houses in the district. In Gujránwála a school with a boarding-house was constructed at a cost of Rs. 8,000.

Medical Charges.

174. The expenditure incurred by District Boards in connection with plague was Rs. 26,000 compared with Rs. 92,000 last year, which fact accounts for the reduction in the expenditure under the head 'Medical.'

46. Municipal Funds.

Audit.

175. The peripatetic audit system which has been introduced for the purposes of auditing Local Fund accounts has also been extended to Municipalities.

Balances.

176. The several Municipalities and Notified Areas opened the year with balances aggregating Rs. 17,98,000, made up as follows:—Rs. 14,83,000 in cash and Rs. 3,15,000 in investments. The aggregate closing balance was Rs. 19,48,000 (Rs. 16,10,000 in cash and Rs. 3,38,000 in investments).

Loans.

177. The balance of loans outstanding on the 31st March 1904 aggregated Rs. 49,23,000 against Rs. 44,53,000 on the 31st March 1903. The increase of Rs. 4,70,000 represents the difference between the advances (Rs. 6,58,000) taken up during the year by certain Municipal Committees against sanctioned loans, and the recoveries (Rs. 1,88,000) made in repayment of loans advanced in previous years. The loans which were taken up during the year were Ambála Rs. 9,400; Simla Rs. 38,800; Dharmsála Rs. 3,400; Lahore Rs. 40,000; Amritsar Rs. 5,66,600. The large loan in Amritsar was required for the purpose of the new water-works which have been under construction. With the exception of a loan obtained by the Lahore Municipality from the Bank of Bengal and a small loan raised on debentures by the Simla Municipality these Municipal loans have all been obtained from Government.

Income and Expenditure.

178. The total income and expenditure, exclusive of Debt Head transactions, amounted to Rs. 49,33,000 and Rs. 52,55,000 against Rs. 49,39,000 and Rs. 51,92,000 respectively in the preceding year. The income was thus practically the same as in the previous year, and the expenditure about Rs. 60,000 more.

Sources of Revenue.

179. The revenue of Municipalities is roughly divided into three main classes,—(1) Realizations under Special Acts, (2) Revenue derived from Municipal property and powers apart from taxation, (3) Taxation. The subject of Municipal Taxation has been dealt with in Chapter III.

Income raised under Special Acts.

180. The chief sources of income under Special Acts are from cattle-pounds, Hackney carriage licenses and Chaukídári Tax. There was a decrease under Hackney carriages, as the receipts of the previous year during the Delhi Darbár were abnormally high. The total income under this heading amounted to Rs. 35,000.

Income raised from Municipal properties.

181. Municipal property yielded a total revenue of Rs. 7,47,000 compared with Rs. 9,26,000. There is here therefore a very substantial falling off in income of Rs. 1,79,000. Here again the income last year had been exceptionally increased by certain sales of Municipal land as mentioned in paragraph 382 of the Administration Report last year, particularly by the sale of More Sarái at Delhi for Rs. 1,65,000. The other items of income under this head have not varied very much, and do not require notice.

Grants and Contributions.

182. The total grants and contributions received by Municipalities from Government, Local Funds and other sources amounted to about 3 lakhs, about nine-tenths of the whole being devoted to Educational and Medical purposes.

Miscellaneous Income.

183. The total revenue from Miscellaneous Income was Rs. 3,98,000 against Rs. 3,94,000. Nazúl income fell from Rs. 73,000 to Rs. 48,000, as the receipts for 1902-03 were exceptionally large at Delhi. Sales of water fetched Rs. 9,000 more, compared with the preceding year. An increased income from this source was derived in Simla, Delhi and Ambála, but not in Lahore, where there was a decrease of Rs. 2,000 said to be due to the non-recovery of rates from those who fled from their houses on account of plague.

Expenditure.

184. The total expenditure of Municipalities amounted to Rs. 52,55,000, an increase of Rs. 63,000 over the expenditure last year. There is little of interest in the variation of expenditure on the cost of the General Administration of the Committees and of the Collection charges. Under the head of Public Safety the expenditure amounted to Rs. 7,14,000 against Rs. 7,15,000 in the previous year. The expenditure on Protection against fire was reduced in Simla, Amritsar and Batála; and the expenditure on Lighting in Delhi was reduced by Rs. 4,000 as the charges of the previous year had been increased by the installation for electric lighting. The construction of Police buildings in the towns of Lahore, Amritsar, Fázilka and Multán raised the cost of the Police charges incurred by Municipalities by Rs. 6,000.

Expenditure on Public Health and Convenience.

185. The principal variation in Municipal expenditure occurred under the head of Public Health and Convenience. The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 27,90,000 and is not very different from last year, being only Rs. 54,000 in excess of last year's figure. But the locality of the heavy expenditure on such objects as drainage and water-works has shifted. Last year the expenditure on Drainage in Delhi, Ambála, Simla, Lyallpur and Chunián was heavy, and the total charges under this head have decreased by Rs. 1,46,000. On the other hand, there is a large increase under the head of Water-supply on account of the important water-works which have been under construction at Amritsar. A considerable increase of Rs. 38,000 in the Hospital charges is accounted for by the construction of the Victoria Jubilee Hospital at Amritsar, and by large additions to the hospital at Delhi. A decrease of Rs. 56,000 under Roads is spread over several Municipalities, but the major portion of it occurred in Delhi and Amritsar, due in the case of the former to heavy expenditure in connection with the Darbár having swollen the account of the previous year, and in the latter to the stoppage of work to permit of pipe-laying in the city during the year under review.

Municipal Expenditure. Public Instruction.

186. The expenditure by Municipalities on Public Instruction amounted to Rs. 6,15,000 against Rs. 5,45,000 in the previous year. The increase of Rs. 20,000 is mainly due to the construction of a school building at Multán for Hindu girls, a boarding-house at Pind Dádan Khan, and to improvements to school buildings at Amritsar and Ludhiána, and partly to the refurnishing of certain schools.

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

[Detailed information and statistics will be found in the following reports and publications:—

Census.—Report on the Census of the Punjab and North-West Frontier, 1903, by H. A. Rose, I. C. S.

Births and Deaths.— *Sanitation.*—	Report on the Sanitary Administration of the Punjab and Proceedings of the Sanitary Board and the Report on Sanitary Works for the year 1903. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India, Eighth Issue, 1904, Tables XIII.
Emigration.—	Census Report, *as above*, and Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India, Table XXXV.
Medical Relief.—	Notes on the Annual Statements of the Dispensaries and Charitable Institutions of the Punjab for the year ending 31st December 1903. Judicial, &c., Statistics, *as above*, Tables XIV and XV. Report of the Punjab Lunatic Asylum for the year 1903.
Vaccination.—	Notes on Vaccination in the Punjab for the year 1903-04. Judicial &c., Statistics, *as above*, Tables XVI.]

47. Details of Census.

(See pages 153—160 of the Report for the year 1901-02 and the Report on the Census of the Punjab and North-West Frontier, 1902.)

48. Births and Deaths.

187. The death-rate of the Province exhibits a rise from 44·1 in 1902 to 49 per *mille* during the year under report. For this rise fevers and plague are mainly responsible, the former accounting for 1·8 and the latter for 1·7 per *mille* of the increased incidence. The birth-rate, on the other hand, in a year of normal prices has remained comparatively steady with an incidence of 42·9 per *mille* compared with 43·8 in 1902. These figures are so far satisfactory, in that in spite of fever and plague the birth-rate of the Punjab is only exceeded by the birth-rates in the United and Central Provinces, but the melancholy fact remains that the Punjab exhibits for the third year in succession the highest death-rate in India. Excluding plague, which is credited with 10·2 of the total death-rate of 49 per *mille*, the rate is still some 2 per *mille* above the quinquennial average and 10 to 11 per *mille* higher than that of healthy years. The influence of the various diseases on the vital statistics is exhibited in the mortality bill for the Province, which is as follows:— General.

	Deaths per mille.
Cholera ...	·7
Small-pox ...	·8
Plague ...	10·2
Fevers ...	25·3
Dysentery and Diarrhœa ...	·8
Respiratory diseases ...	3·4
Injuries ...	·3
All other causes ...	7·4

The cholera outbreak was confined mainly to four districts, and was directly traceable to the Kumbh Fair at Hardwár in April 1903. Compared with previous Kumbh Mela years, the mortality was small, and the spread of the disease was checked by prompt and effective measures in its incipient stages. Small-pox was also rather more active, and this was probably due to plague interfering

with vaccination operations. The deaths from dysentery and diarrhœa, respiratory diseases and all other causes call for no special remark.

Plague.

188. The spread of plague in the Province is the most disquieting feature of the year, and the most disappointing; and after six years of fruitless but unceasing toil the attempt to enforce compulsory measures for the control of the disease has had to be given up. The havoc played by the malady in some of the most fertile districts has been terrible, and it seems only too probable that the end is not yet. The year showed a mortality bill of 210,697, whilst 341,267 persons were attacked by the disease. Gujránwála, with a population of 890,577 persons, lost 44,267 or 63 per *mille*, whilst 7·62 per cent. of its inhabitants were attacked. Jullundur, Lahore and Amritsar all lost over 23,000, and their ratios of attack and mortality were, respectively, 4·67, 4·45 and 3·66 per cent. and 28·6, 20·7 and 25·6 per *mille*, and other districts, such as Hoshiárpur and Siálkot, were badly hit. All that could be done was done. Three hundred and twenty-seven thousands three hundred and fifty-seven inoculations were performed, and though this carried no immunity from the disease, still the statistics show that the liability of the uninoculated to death was two and-a-half times as great as that of the inoculated. Now that the disease has got beyond control, a new scheme of policy has been announced. The element of compulsion has been almost entirely eliminated, and while Government have recognised and provided for the obligation of rendering assistance to the inhabitants of plague-stricken towns and villages, and have left no stone unturned to persuade and educate the people in the matter, the choice of adopting or neglecting precautionary measures has been left almost entirely unfettered. One duty alone is still entirely compulsory, namely, the reporting of plague occurrences, but while in the case of villages it was formerly the duty of the Patwárís to maintain registers and to submit returns of plague occurrences, these latter are now reported by chaukídárs at the same time and in the same way as deaths from other diseases. In villages, too, compulsion may still be applied to an inconspicuous minority who refuse to leave their houses when the remainder of their fellow villagers desire evacuation. In towns compulsory action is confined to the isolation of houseless or unattended persons suffering from plague. Again, while chemical disinfection by official agency is still advocated, rules have been framed to ensure its effectiveness. The people, that is, can have it or not as they like, but if they have it, they must submit to it thoroughly. Finally, where disinfection is not desired desiccation is advocated, and inoculation is freely offered at every dispensary in which there is an Assistant Surgeon in charge. The administration of plague measures has also been assimilated to that of other diseases, and the Civil Surgeon of each infected district is now his own Plague Medical Officer. Plague charges have also been re-arranged, and Local, that is, District, Funds have been freed from the liability for all expenses except those in connection with local precautionary measures and disinfection. It is too early as yet to comment on the working of the new policy. All that can be said is that, while apathy is still the prevailing note, there are occasional indications that the attitude of the people towards the disease is undergoing some slight change.

Fevers.

189 The prevalence of fevers in the Province has long been a source of regret, and though the present year is characterised by a rising death-rate, this is only slightly in excess of the quinquennial average, and far below that of 1900. The most noticeable increases were found in the districts of Amritsar, Gurdáspur, Shahpur, Multán and Muzaffargarh, and are ascribed to abnormal monsoon rains and inundations. As yet little has been done in the direction of the destruction of mosquitoes. Trial measures were carried out in Gujránwála and Gujrát, but the severe prevalence of plague in the former interfered with the operations. The same cause, combined with lack of funds, has also prevented much being done in the way of filling up or draining pools around villages; and, speaking generally, village sanitation is still in a very backward condition, but the subject is engaging the consideration of the Sanitary Board, and schemes are on foot for encouraging local effort by the grant of substantial rewards in money. Quinine has, of course, been distributed as usual in a large number of districts.

49. Emigration and Immigration.

(There is nothing to report under this heading.)

50. Medical Relief.

190. There are in the British districts of the Province, 252 dispensaries or hospitals where medical relief can be obtained, with 3,070 beds available for in-door patients. The average daily attendance of in-door patients was 1,813. The hospitals and dispensaries are very largely resorted to by patients who attend as out-door patients or who receive medicines at home from the hospital. The number of such patients treated during the year was 3,260,640, an increase of 291,652 over last year. An increase in the number of children brought to the hospitals and dispensaries for treatment is satisfactory. The number of operations performed was 162,396, an increase of 8,933 over the number in the previous year. All classes of the population resort to the hospitals, which appear to maintain their popularity. General.

191. During the year the foundation stone of the Victoria Zenana Hospital at Delhi has been laid and the new Walker Hospital at Simla opened. The Ripon Hospital has continued to do good work, and the erection of a Contagious Diseases Hospital at Simla for Europeans and Eurasians has also been sanctioned. A site has been acquired at Jullundur for the erection of the Victoria Memorial Hospital, to which Government has contributed a grant-in-aid and the work of construction will shortly commence. The new Jubilee Hospital at Amritsar is now nearly completed. It is a fine building costing 1½ lakhs. New Hospitals.

192. There are 6 leper asylums in the Province, and 521 lepers were treated during the year: 39 died and 63 left of their own accord, and the number remaining at the close of the year was 419. Leper Asylums.

193. There were 584 patients treated at the Pasteur Institute, Kasauli, of whom 269 were Europeans and 315 Natives. There were six failures, all among natives. Pasteur Institute.

194. The Punjab Lunatic Asylum at Lahore continued to do useful work. A new Female Lunatic Asylum has been constructed to accomodate nine Europeans and 64 Natives. Lunatic Asylum.

195. There has been a decrease, as compared with the preceding year, of 78 medico-legal cases, whilst there has been an increase of 55 articles analysed in the General Chemical Department. The prevalence of arsenical poisoning is still very marked, and it is a subject for congratulation that the passing of the Poisons Act of 1904 will afford an opportunity for controlling the sale of this poison. Chemical Examiner.

51. Sanitation.

196. The Sanitary Board met six times during the year, and the Sanitary Engineer was also active in supervising such big projects as have been under construction, *viz.*, the Amritsar Water-Works, the Simla Sewage Extension Works and the Simla Bazár Drainage Works. The last-named project was completed during the year. One of the most interesting experiments has been that made with septic tanks at Simla, and though it has been shown that the biological method of dealing with sewage is by no means as easy and simple as its advocates make out, the results have been on the whole fairly satisfactory, and the initial difficulties connected with the working have been largely overcome. Fifteen projects for drainage works, water-works or sewage works in different towns in the Punjab were approved by the Local Government or the Sanitary Board during the year. The Lyallpur Drainage and Water-Works were completed; the drainage of Chiniot completed, and that of Toba Tek Singh and Gojra—together with a water supply—put in hand. Water-works and drainage projects were sanctioned for Sargodha, and progress has been made

with the water supply scheme of Miánwáli. At Delhi an underground sewer on the north of the Chándni Chowk has been constructed and some progress has been made on the sanctioned scheme for surface drains. A project for new water-works at Dharmsála has been sanctioned and put in hand. At the Ambála City water-works the construction of four new wells was commenced, and the extra-mural part of the drainage scheme of this town was in progress throughout the year. In Lahore the extension of the supply wells of the water-works and the installation of a new engine was completed. A great deal of energy has been infused into all schemes relating to Sanitary Engineering, and satisfactory progress on the whole has been made. Considerable progress has been made in the matter of the protection and clearance of wells in rural areas, but rural sanitation is otherwise in a very backward state.

52. Vaccination.

197. The increased mortality from small-pox during the year has already been noticed. In certain towns no vaccination was done on account of the severity of the plague epidemic. In the majority of the towns in which the Vaccination Act is in force, the vaccination work during the year was satisfactory and, it may be added, the disease was much less fatal in such towns. The total number of vaccinations performed by the District Staff shows an increase of about 9,500 as compared with the previous year.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

[Detailed information on the subject of Education will be found in the Annual Reports on Public Instruction in the Punjab and in the statistical tables appended thereto, also in the tables under X—Education in the yearly volumes of Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India published by the Director-General of Statistics. Under heading XII of the same volume statistics of printing presses and newspapers are given.]

53. General System of Public Instruction.

198. The general system and history of Public Instruction in the Punjab was explained in the report of 1901-02 (paragraphs 616—635). It will not be treated again till 1911-12. Public Instruction.

54. Education.

GENERAL SUMMARY.

199. The number of Public Institutions is 3,246 with 194,915 pupils, and of these 247 are in Native States with 14,752 pupils and 2,999 in British Territory with 180,163 pupils. Compared with the figures for 1902-03, the Public Institutions in Native States have increased by 9 and the number of pupils by only 142, while in British Territory the number of institutions and pupils have increased by 7 and 1,244 respectively. The number of Private Institutions in Native States has decreased from 928 to 861, or by 67, and of pupils from 9,050 to 8,844, or by 206. The number of these institutions in British Territory has also decreased from 3,897 to 3,840, or by 57, whereas the number of pupils in them has increased by 511, being 67,471 against 66,960 in the previous year. Taking Public and Private Institutions together, Native States show a decrease of 58 schools and 64 scholars; institutions in British Territory have decreased by 50, while the number of pupils has risen by 1,755. The number of girls under instruction has risen by 107 in Native States, and is now 1,867, and in British Territory by 368, the number being 25,677 against 25,309 last year. Total figures.

200. There are 18 Colleges—14 in British Territory and 4 in Native States. The Arts Colleges (English) in Native States had 61 students against 44, and in British Territory 1,185, or 47 more than in the previous year. The Oriental College, Lahore, had 79 students against 85, and the Oriental Department of the Patiála College had 35 students, or 10 less than last year. The number of students in the Law College has again diminished, only 133 being returned against 154. The number of students in the Medical College has risen by 18, and at the close of the year under review was 234. Colleges.

201. The number of Secondary Schools for boys in British Territory has fallen from 300 to 291; the number of students in them is 56,749 against 57,283, or 534 less than returned last year. The number of corresponding schools for girls has, however, risen from 32 to 35, with an increase of 227 in the attendance. The total number of Secondary Schools is, therefore, 326 against 332, and the number of pupils 59,654 against 59,961, showing a decrease of 6 schools and 307 pupils. The number at the High stage is 3,946 Secondary Schools.

against 3,745, at the Middle stage 17,401 against 17,882, and at the Primary stage (Upper and Lower Primary) 38,307 against 38,334. In Native States Secondary Schools have risen from 51 to 53, and the pupils in them from 7,604 to 7,855.

Primary Schools.

202. In British Territory the number of Primary Schools for boys has increased by 9 with 1,455 more pupils than last year. Primary Schools for girls have increased by one, but the number of pupils in them has decreased by 118. Altogether there were 2,633 Primary Schools against 2,623 in 1902-03, with 116,261 pupils against 114,924, which shows an increase of 10 schools and 1,337 pupils. In Native States there are 189 schools against 182 last year, with 120 pupils less than last year.

Special Schools.

203. The number of schools for special instruction has risen from 23 to 26, and the number of pupils from 2,356 to 2,490, an increase of 3 schools and 134 pupils. Six of these (against 4 returned last year) with 278 (or 9 more than last year) pupils are for girls. In Native States there is still one Special School with 14 pupils, or 4 more than last year.

Private Institutions.

204. In British Territory the number of Private Institutions has fallen from 3,897 to 3,840, or by 57 (a decrease of 92 boys' and an increase of 35 girls' schools), but the number of pupils has risen from 66,960 to 67,471 (an increase of 261 boys and 250 girls). In Native States Private Institutions have decreased by 67 and the number of pupils by 206.

Expenditure.

205. The total expenditure on education in British Punjab during 1903-04 was Rs. 39,18,070 against Rs. 35,81,463. This was provided from the following sources :—

	Rs.
Imperial Government	1,35,035
Provincial Government...	13,26,732
District Boards...	5,76,936
Municipalities	3,40,443
Fees	9,78,090
Other Sources	5,60,834

The contribution from the Provincial Government was Rs. 2,87,193 more than last year.

Fees.

206. The income from this source was Rs. 9,88,855, of which Rs. 7,36,629 was from Tuition Fees and Rs. 2,52,226 from Other Fees. There is an increase of Rs. 13,616 under Tuition Fees and of Rs. 17,819 under Other Fees.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

Arts Examinations.

207. In the Intermediate Examination (Arts) 232 candidates passed out of 505, or 45·9 per cent., against 249 passes out of 559 candidates, or 44·5 per cent., last year. On the Oriental side only 3 went up and one passed, and in Science 14 out of 26 passed. In the First Arts Examination of the Calcutta University one boy appeared from the Bishop Cotton School, Simla, and passed. In the B. A. Examination 273 candidates appeared and 128 passed, or 46·3 per cent., against 126 out of 291, or 43·3 per cent. In the B. O. L. Examination 3 candidates appeared and 2 passed against 2 out of 5 last year. In the B. Sc. Examination out of 5 candidates 3 were successful. In the M. A. Examination 18 passed out of 36. On the Arts side the total number of candidates was 825 and of passes 384 against 885 and 389, respectively, last year.

Oriental Language Examinations.

208. In the Examinations for Oriental Languages 444 candidates appeared and 228 passed against 505 candidates and 252 passes last year.

209. In the First Examination in Civil Engineering 46 appeared and 42 passed against 24 out of 37 in 1902-03. *Civil Engineering.*

210. In the Law Examinations 18 candidates out of 55 passed the Examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Laws. The decline in the numbers of candidates for this school noticed since 1898-99 still continues. *Law Examinations.*

211. In the Preliminary Scientific Examination 73 candidates were examined and 42 passed. In the First Examination for the Diploma of Licentiate in Medicine and Surgery and of Bachelor of Medicine 20 out of 40 candidates were successful, and in the Second Examination 22 passed out of 25 Altogether 138 students sppeared for the various examinations on the College side, and of these, 84, or 61 per cent., were successful against 68 per cent. last year. *Medical Examination.*

212. In the Entrance Examination (Arts, Oriental and Science Faculties), as well as in the Clerical and Commercial Examination, 989 out of 1,942 candidates passed against 1,146 out of 1,937 last year. There were 4 candidates on the Oriental side of the Entrance Examination, of whom 3 were successful. In the Clerical and Commercial Examination 19 candidates passed out of 62. In addition to the Clerical and Commercial School at Amritsar such classes existed during the year also at Hoshiárpur and Rewári Municipal Board and Ráwalpindi Mission Schools. *Entrance Examination.*

213. In the Middle School Examination 3,437 candidates out of 5,220, or 65·8 per cent., were successful against 3,083 out of 5,184, or 59 4 per cent., in 1902-03. On the Anglo-Vernacular side 2,393 candidates passed out of 3,702, and on the Vernacular side 1,044 passed out of 1,518. In addition to these, 238 out of 256 candidates who took up English only passed. The Anglo-Vernacular Middle School Examination will in future be discontinued, and a Scholarship Examination will be held every year at the head-quarters of each district at the time of its annual inspection. *Middle School Examination.*

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

214. The twenty-third Convocation of the Punjab University was held in the Montgomery Hall on the 19th December 1903, when 162 graduates were admitted to the various degrees as against 188 graduates in the previous year. *University Convocation.*

215. During the year the Central Training College was affiliated to the University, and the Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Teaching were framed and submitted to the Government of India for sanction. The Cambridge Senior Local Examination was recognized as equivalent to the Entrance Examination. Inter-College Rules were framed by the University, and sanctioned by Government. *Measures of the year.*

216. At the close of the year the number of Arts Colleges was 15,—13 English and 2 Oriental. Of these 11 are in British Territory and 4 in Native States. The Colleges which attract the largest number of students are the Forman Christian College, the Dayánand Anglo-Vadic College and the Government College, all at Lahore. *Arts Colleges.*

217. There are in the Punjab three professional Colleges for Law, Medicine and Teaching. The first is under the direct control of the Punjab University; the second and third are Government institutions. *Professional Colleges.*

218. The total attendance in Arts Colleges (English) in British Territory increased from 1,138 to 1,185. In the First Year Classes there are 382 students; in the Second Year Classes 418 students; in the Third Year Classes 153 students; in the Fourth Year Classes 192 students; and in the M. A. Classes 40 students. In the professional Colleges the number rose from 455 to 494. *Students.*

219. The number of students on the rolls of the Oriental College at the close of the year was 79 compared with 85. In the School Department there *Oriental College, Lahore.*

were 41 compared with 54. Instruction is also given here in Oriental languages to 117 students of the Government College. Progress is being made in the production of text-books in the Vernacular by the staff of the College.

SECONDARY EDUCATION (BOYS).

Number of Schools.

220. A decrease of 10 occurred in the number of Anglo-Vernacular Middle Schools in consequence of the non-recognition or closure of certain inefficient unaided institutions in the Lahore and Ráwalpindi Circles. The total number of Public Secondary Schools for boys, European and Native, is now 291. The policy of Government, of having one Government Model School at the head-quarters of each district, will soon be carried into effect.

Number of Pupils.

221. The total number of boys attending the Secondary Schools is 56,749, and of this number 36,020 are in the Primary stage of instruction. The total number of pupils in Anglo-Vernacular Schools fell during the year from 39,730 to 39,342 and in Vernacular Schools from 17,553 to 17,407, the decrease in the former being confined to institutions under private management; whilst the Government and Board Schools have an upward tendency, however small. The above decrease is due partly to the effects of the plague and partly to the exclusion of unrecognized institutions from the list of Public Schools. The number of boys in the Secondary stage of instruction reading in Anglo-Vernacular Secondary Schools at the end of 1903-04 was 15,580 against 15,598 in the previous year. Of these, 11,774 against 12,004 were in the Middle stage, and 3,806 against 3,594 in the High stage; the increase of 212 in the latter is satisfactory. The character and method of teaching has improved considerably in Secondary Schools.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS (BOYS).

Number and Classes of Schools.

222. The number of Primary Schools has risen from 2,289 to 2,298, or by 9. Of the whole number, 1,640 are Government and Board Schools, 555 Aided and 103 Unaided. The increase of 9 schools is accounted for by a rise of 16 and 11, respectively, in Board and Aided Schools, the fall being mostly in the Jullundur Circle. The number of Zamíndári Schools is 192 against 186.

Number and distribution of Scholars.

223. The number of pupils has risen from 192,056 to 103,511, or by 1,455; the increase was mainly in Board Schools. Of the whole number in Primary Schools, 17,066 are at the Upper Primary stage and 86,455 at the Lower Primary stage. The number of agriculturists is returned as 49,827 against 48,875, or an increase of nearly 2 per cent. At the same time the number of agriculturists reading in Zamíndári Schools has risen from 3,832 to 3,929, or by 97.

Expenditure.

224. The total expenditure is now Rs. 4,69,110 or Rs. 4,341 more than in the previous year; of this increase Rs. 3,814 was on Government and Board Schools, while there was a reduction in expenditure, amounting to Rs. 2,141 on Unaided Schools, due to a falling off in receipts from private sources. The increased expenditure on Primary Departments of Secondary Schools is due partly to better salaries paid to a few teachers and partly to better equipment of the schools as regards furniture, maps and other appliances.

Fees.

225. The income from fees received in Primary Schools rose from Rs. 68,705 to Rs. 69,721, or by Rs. 1,016. The increase is almost entirely in Government and Board Schools. The Code rules regarding the levy of tuition fees are generally well observed in Board and Aided Schools, the rates being arbitrary in Indigenous and Unaided Institutions.

Zamindari Schools.

226. The number of Zamíndári Schools has risen from 186 to 192, or by 6, but the number of scholars attending them has fallen from 5,853 to 5,695, or by 158. Of the agriculturists attending Primary Schools (58,351 in all) only 3,929 attend Zamíndári Schools. Urdu is the medium of instruction in all the Zamíndári Schools, except 10 in Delhi and Jullundur Circles, where Nágri is taught. Every effort has been made to popularise these schools, but without success.

General Remarks.

227. The record of the past year is one of progress. The number of schools and pupils has risen, the examination results are satisfactory, and the fee receipts and expenditure from public funds are larger. Rupees 40,000 were paid from Provincial Revenues during the year in addition to the Rs. 60,000 paid last year towards the improvement of Primary School buildings under Local Bodies. The character of the instruction given is improving.

TRAINING INSTITUTIONS.

Numbers and kind of institutions.

228. The Central Training College, Lahore, trains students for English Masterships in all departments of schools and in Vernacular Masterships in Secondary Departments. There are also 5 Normal Schools at Ráwalpindi, Lahore, Jullundur, Multán and Delhi where students are trained for the work of a teacher in Primary Schools and Departments. St. Bede's College, in connection with the Convent at Simla, has recently been opened for the training of women teachers in European Schools. It has been provided with suitable buildings, the funds for which were liberally supplemented by Government. The College commenced work at the beginning of the year with a roll of 16 students. All the Training Institutions for Natives are under the control of the Education Department. The Central Training College is under the Director's immediate control, the Normal Schools under the Circle Inspectors, with the exception of that at Lahore, which is supervised by the Principal, Central Training College. The latter visits all Normal Schools annually. The staff of each Training Institution has been increased in view of the duplication of classes consequent on the extension of the course of the training to two years.

Model School, Lahore.

229. The Central Model School, the Practising School for the Central Training College and the Lahore Normal School, continues to be most successful and popular. The marked and continued success of the students in the different public examinations has entirely removed whatever prejudice there may have been years ago against a school where so much teaching was done by students under training. The numbers on the rolls have risen from 713 to 766, an increase of 53 over last year. The income from fees has increased from Rs. 11,331 to Rs. 12,675. The results of the public examinations were good, especially so in the Middle and Entrance Examinations, and achieved as usual a striking success in the Science Faculty. During the year no less than 1,560 lessons were given in the school by students in training, and each lesson was carefully criticised by the masters.

Character and results of training.

230. The Central Training College has been in existence for over 22 years, while the Normal Schools are considerably older. From the experience thus gained, from the results of examinations and from the reports on the works of students after leaving the Training Institutions, the training may be safely characterised as sound. It comprises lectures on the Principles of Education, Methods of Teaching and School Management, Model Lessons, Criticism Lessons, continuous work in the Practice of Teaching in the Model School for a week at a time, and visits of observation to the Model School. Drawing and the method of teaching it, Kindergarten (Theoretical and Practical) and Drill and Gymnastics are compulsory subjects in all Training Schools. In Normal Schools Agriculture and Land Surveying are also compulsory. A high standard of discipline is maintained, and generally an excellent tone prevails. In the Central Training College the students are selected with much care, and their after-career in schools is almost invariably characterised by a marked influence for good. Physical training is given with a view not only to their own benefit and development, but also to train the students for this important part of their work as teachers. Drill and Gymastics have been as usual regularly taught. All students are required to give three hours a week to this work and to the study of the principles of Physical Training. The course of general instruction has hitherto been completed in one year, but for all classes the training now lasts for two years. In the Normal Schools there were 248 under training against 255 last year. The number on the rolls in the Central Training College increased considerably,

being 127 as against 85 last year. The results of the Certificate Examinations were very good in the case of the Central Training College and fairly satisfactory in the case of the Normal Schools.

Training in Agriculture and Mensuration.

231. Practical Agriculture and Mensuration continue to receive very fair attention in the Normal Schools. At Lahore and Multán extra land has been acquired for practical work in Agriculture. And arrangements are in progress to obtain suitable sites for the purpose at the other Normal Schools. Land Mensuration and Practical Field work also receive attention.

Training of Female Teachers.

232. Thirty-two girls were under traning during the year, of whom 19 were in the Senior Vernacular Class and 13 in the Junior Vernacular Class. The results of the Senior Vernacular Certificate Examination show 8 girls as having passed, a similar result to that of last year. In the Junior Vernacular Certificate Examination 4 girls passed.

Supply of trained Teachers.

233. The supply of trained teachers is still insufficient, but the total number admitted into the Central Training College and Normal Schools this year is nearly double that of former years.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.

Law.

234. The Law College is under the direct control of the Punjab University. The attraction of the law as a professional career seems to be less strong than formerly, as the decline in the number of students noticed in 1898-99 still continues.

Medicine.

235. The medical profession, on the other hand, attracts an increasing number of recruits; the number of students in the Medical College, Lahore, has again increased from 216 to 234. The hospitals in Lahore afford facilities for practical instruction in the practice of Medicine and Surgery, and the Lahore College of Medicine deservedly maintains its high reputation.

Medical training of women.

236. The North India Medical School for Christian Women at Ludhiána had 42 students on its rolls at the end of the year against 49 last year. Training is given in Medicine, Nursing and Compounding.

Native systems of Medicine.

237. Instruction in the Native systems of medicine can be obtained at the Madrassa-i-Tibya, Delhi, and in the Vedic and Yunáni Classes attached to the Dayánand Ango-Vedic College and to the Islamiya College, Lahore. As regards the two latter, in the absence of facilities of clinical instruction, the question of their retention or abolition is under consideration. At the Madrassa-i-Tibya, Delhi, regular instruction is given in Arabic in the Yunáni system of medicine, supplemented by a few lectures on Anatomy and Surgery by an English doctor. The roll of students has risen from 91 to 120 during the year.

Veterinary. College.

238. The number of students on the rolls of the Lahore Veterinary College is now 128, and shows a slight increase during the year. The competition for admission to the College has largely increased. A demand continues for trained Veterinary Assistants both in the districts and in the Remount and Transport Department, and the reputation of the College stands high. The results of the examination this year show a very marked improvement on previous years, and are in every way satisfactory.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Mayo School of Art.

239. The number of students on the rolls of the Mayo School was 302, which is the same as last year. Fifteen students left the school during the year and all found employment as Teachers or Drawing Masters in Schools. An Engineering Class maintained by the Punjab University is attached to the Mayo School and is very popular.

240. The Railway Technical School has increased in all departments. The number of students has now reached 441, and they receive both a general and a technical education. Technical training is afforded in Drawing, Carpentry and Smiths' work. A separate room for lathe work has been built, and a new Science room is approaching completion. Evening classes are held for artisans who are not able to attend the day school. Railway Technical School.

241. Industrial Schools are maintained by the Municipalities of Amritsar and Delhi and by the District Board of Ludhiána. There is also a Hindu Technical Institute at Lahore, which makes provision for teaching Drawing, Carpentry, Smiths' work, Engraving, Rubber Stamp-making, Short-hand and Type-writing. The number of students who avail themselves of these facilities is not very large. Nevertheless the institution is reported to be doing useful work. Industerial Schools and Institute.

242. The Clerical and Commercial School at Amritsar is now a well-established institution, and is maintained by the Local Municipal Board. It had 59 scholars on its rolls at the close of the year. Drafting, Book-keeping, Précis and Type-writing and Short-handwriting are taught. Similar classes are attached to the Municipal Board Schools at Rewári and Hoshiárpur and to the Mission School at Ráwalpindi. The last mentioned appears to be holding its own. The others do not yet show much vitality. Clerical and Commercial Classes.

FEMALE EDUCATION.

243. There has been a very small increase in the number of Girls' Schools, from 32 to 35 in the case of Secondary Schools and from 334 to 335 in the case of Primary Schools. The number of pupils receiving instruction in the Primary stage is nearly the same as last year, 15,037 against 141,908. In the Secondary stage there is a decrease in the number of pupils from 638 to 618. Number of Schools and Scholars.

244. The Amritsar District again returns the largest number of girls attending Public Schools for Natives—2,064; the Lahore District returns 1,814, Ráwalpindi 1,404, Siálkot 1,400, Gujránwála 851, Delhi 751, and Jullundur 707. Districts where female education is most advanced.

245. For the Entrance Examination 47 girls appeared, of whom 36 passed, and for the Middle School Examination, 83 girls appeared, of whom 51 passed. In the Upper Primary Examination 584 girls appeared and 439, or 75 per cent., passed. In the Lower Primary Examination 815 out of 1,200 girls passed. All the successful Native candidates in the Entrance and Middle School Examinations were from the Christian High Schools at Lahore and Amritsar. Results of Examination of Girls.

246. The schools have been carried on during the year with much difficulty on account of the plague, those districts with the largest number of Girls' Schools being specially affected. In Gujránwála, Siálkot, Jullundur, Ludhiána, Ráwalpindi and other places the schools were entirely closed for two or three months, and there were many deaths among both teachers and pupils. The want of trained teachers continues to be felt; but most of the large Mission Schools train Christian girls for their own schools and their branches, and a satisfactory feature this year is the proportion of Hindús who have obtained certificates as teachers, since it is for Hindu teachers that there is the greatest demand. It is hoped that it will not be long before a Female Normal School is established at Lahore in connection with the Victoria Girls' School, which it is proposed to utilize as a practising school. General Remarks on the progress of Female Education during the year.

EDUCATION OF PARTICULAR CLASSES.

247. There are 40 European Schools in the Province, of which 36 are Public European Schools and 4 are Private. One Public School, *viz.*, St. Thomas' School at Murree, was closed during the year. Sixteen out of the 40 schools are boys' schools and 24 are girls' schools. All the European public European Schools.

schools except 4 are managed mainly by religious bodies, and all but the Park School, Simla, are aided by Government. The four exceptions are the Lawrence Asylums at Sanáwar, which are Government institutions, and two Railway Schools. The number of pupils receiving instruction in these schools was 2,508, of whom 1,725 are in the Primary stage of education. There are no special Technical Schools for Europeans in the Punjab; but in some of the schools for general education, industrial and technical work is done. Thirty-seven per cent. of the expenditure on European Schools was derived from fees, 43 per cent. was contributed by Government, Imperial and Provincial, and the rest was obtained from other sources.

Muhammadans.

248. The number of Muhammadan boys receiving instruction in Public Institutions of all kinds is now 7·47 per cent. of those of school-going age, compared with 12·35 for Hindús and 13·37 for Sikhs. In the Secondary stage of Anglo-Vernacular Schools the percentage of Muhammadans is only 0·51, and is less than one-half of that of each of the other two communities. In Public and Private Institutions together this percentage in the case of Muhammadans, Hindús and Sikhs is now 11·77, 15·05 and 15·56, respectively, showing a slight rise in favour of Muhammadans and Hindús and a slight fall in the case of Sikhs. The Sikhs continue to take the lead both as regards boys and girls' education, being closely followed by the Hindús. Muhammadans are conservative in their preference for Private Schools and the instruction obtained in the mosque, but though still the most backward class, they are showing themselves more alive to the need and benefit of the education obtained at the Public Schools. The special concessions of free and half-rate fees allowed to Muhammadans continue to be enjoyed by them.

The Aitchison Chiefs' College.

249. The number of pupils at the close of the year was 69, an increase of 2 on that of the previous year. During the year 20 students left and 22 joined the institution. It has been decided that each of the boarding-houses shall in future be placed under the charge of a European House Master. The instructional state of the school is satisfactory, and the results of the Primary and Middle School Examinations were excellent. The receipts during the year amounted to Rs. 1,05,317.

Private Schools.

250. During the year the total number of Private Schools has fallen from 4,825 to 4,701. The total includes 576 girls' schools with 9,744 scholars. The decrease in the number of Private Schools is chiefly due to the prevalence of plague in the Province. With the exception of Rote Schools, which alone show a gain of 1,833 pupils, the strength of every type of Private School has gone down. Private Schools are useful in extending elementary education among the masses, and are encouraged by the award of grants-in-aid on easy terms. The number of schools examined for grants during the year rose from 586 to 592; and the efficiency of these schools is found to be improving.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Native States.

251. The number of Colleges in Native States remains the same, *viz.*, three, situated at Patiála, Baháwalpur and Kapurthala. The total number of students at these Colleges is 96. There are 243 Public Schools in the Native States against 234; and of these 53 are Secondary with 7,855 pupils, 189 are Primary with 6,787 pupils, and one is a Special School with 14 students. The number of pupils in Indigenous Schools has fallen, and there is a slight decrease in the number of scholars under instruction in all kinds of institutions; but it is satisfactory that the number of girls has risen from 1,760 to 1,961.

Moral Training and Discipline.

252. The importance of moral training is kept in view in every class of educational institution. Physical Training forms an essential part of the curriculum of every school, and during the past year has received special attention; and it is directed so as to train the pupils in the valuable moral qualities of initiative, self-reliance, voluntary obedience to recognized rules, and the spirit of co-operation. The personal influence of teachers is a most

important factor both in the moral and mental education of the pupil, and the advance which has been made in the Training Schools to raise the qualifications of teachers is being attended with the best results. The superior quality of the trained teachers is everywhere noticed.

Boarding-Houses.

253. At the end of the year there were altogether 294 boarding-houses with 10,479 boarders. Of these 272 are for males and 22 houses for girls. Of the 294 boarding-houses, 12 are managed by Government, 178 by Local Bodies, 41 are Aided and 63 are Unaided. Extension of the boarding accommodation is being provided for at the Government College and at the Medical College, and additions and extensions have been made to the accommodation of the Dayánand Anglo-Vedic College, the Islámia College, the Hindu College, Delhi, the St. Stephen's College, and to the combined boarding-house of the Central Training College, the Lahore Normal School and the Central Model School. The school boarding-houses attached to Secondary Schools are generallv satisfactory, but insufficient accommodation and overcrowding, defective lighting, want of medical attendance and inadequate equipment are reported at several places.

Educational Conferences and Exhibition.

254. A General Educational Conference was held at Lahore on the 21st April 1903, and the four following days, when many questions of educational interest were advanced a stage with a view to further action. This was followed by a Conference of Inspecting Officers under the presidency of the Inspector of Schools of Lahore Circle which dealt with certain matters of a technical departmental character. Finally, an Educational Exhibition, the first of its kind, was held in the third week of April 1903, and it proved to be not only extremely popular (the total number of visitors being 35,252), but to have a very real educational value of its own both to teachers and pupils.

55. Literature and the Press.

Literature.

255. The total number of books and periodicals published during the year was 1,478, compared with 1,233 in 1902. Urdu as usual has the largest number of publications, 601; Punjábi with 397 comes next. Of the total number, 129 are periodicals, a form of literature which shows signs of increasing in importance. The "Makhzan," the only Urdu Literary Magazine, is a journal of some enterprise, supported by the younger literary talent of the Province. The publications of the year do not include any very remarkable works. About one-third of the total number are concerned with religion. Pamphlets dealing with the Muhammadan religion, consisting chiefly of prayer books, chapters of the Qurán, with or without notes, genealogies of saints, and catechisms, are especially numerous. The polemical writings are also as numerous and generally speaking of as little worth as ever. The biographies include an interesting sketch of the Caliph Ottoman. No history except a history of the Delhi Darbár has appeared. Among translated works may be mentioned the Life of Lord Roberts. The popularity of works of fiction is increasing, and their general character remains the same. Those of more value, such as "Cosmopolitan Hindúáni" by Mrs. Tahl Rám or the "Jamashaid," use the form of fiction to convey the authors' views on the social or religious problems of the day.

Statistics of newspapers.

256. There were 210 newspapers published in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province during the year 1903. Of these 31 were published in English, 165 in Urdu, 1 in English and Urdu, 6 in Hindi and 7 in Gurmakhi. Three English and 38 Vernacular newspapers were started and 3 English and 43 Vernacular ceased to exist during the year, leaving a total of 164 on the register. One was published yearly, 1 quarterly, 70 monthly, 28 twice a month, 5 three times a month, 94 weekly, 3 twice a week, and 2 thrice a week. There were 6 daily newspapers.

Press Prosecutions.

257. There were no Press prosecutions duirng the year under report.

56. Literary Societies.

258. The subject was reviewed in the report of 1901-02. It will not be treated again till 1911-12.

57. Arts and Sciences.

Lahore Central Museum.

259 The popularity of the museum is well sustained, and the experiment of having a zenána day continues to be a success.

E/1903-04

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

[Detailed information on the subject of this chapter will be found in the following publication :—Administration Report of the Public Works Department, Punjab, Buildings and Roads Branch, for 1903-04; Annual Progress Report of the Archæological Survey, Punjab and United Provinces Circle, for the year ending 31st March 1904.]

58. Archæology.

Maintenance and restoration of archæological buildings.

260. The restoration of the Moti Masjid and the Bhádon and Sáwan buildings in the Delhi Fort were completed at a total cost of Rs. 8,006. The stone elephant, supposed to have been brought from Chitor by the Emperor Akbar, was taken from the Queen's Gardens and re-erected at the Delhi Gate of the Fort on the spot where it was originally set up by the Emperor Shah Jahán. The interesting tomb of Ísa Khán, with its mosque and enclosure, which had become a small village, was taken over and cleared of residents, due compensation being paid. The restoration of Shams-ud-dín Atgah's tomb at Delhi is in progress, and also that of a portion of the inlay work and stone flooring at Jahángir's tomb, Shahdara. In all, a sum of Rs. 45,000 was spent on the restoration of archæological buildings.

Archæological survey.

261. During the year the Punjab and the United Provinces were formed into one circle for the purposes of the archæological survey with head-quarters at Lahore, and the North-West Frontier Province and Balúchistán were formed into a separate circle. It was arranged that Dr. Vogel, the Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of the Punjab and United Provinces, should confine his investigations to the Buddhist and Hindu antiquities, while the newly-appointed Archæological Officer, Mr. Shepherd, should take charge of the Muhammadan buildings in the amalgamated circle. The lamented death of Mr. Shepherd only five months after his appointment left a vacancy which only recently has been filled again. During the first month of the year Dr. Vogel was engaged in excavations at Chársada (Pesháwar District, North-West Frontier Province). The objects discovered in the course of the work were left in charge of the Secretary of the Municipal Committee, Pesháwar. They are destined for the museum which will be built in that city in connection with a Memorial Darbár Hall. The month of June was spent by the Surveyor in Chamba in continuing the epigraphical work of the previous summer. A considerable number of copper plate inscriptions were recovered, from all of which ink-impressions were taken and transcripts prepared. No fresh copper plates of the pre-Muhammadan period were discovered. The Archæological Surveyor then proceeded to Kashmír, visiting all the ancient Kashmír temples with the exception of a few of minor importance. A list of the ancient monuments both in Kashmír and Chamba was prepared, and a report on the state of preservation of the ancient monuments in Kashmír was also submitted by the Archæological Surveyor. The account of the results of the research of the Archæological Survey, contained in Part II of the Surveyor's report for the year, includes notes on inscriptions on stone discovered at the hamlet of Saráhan in the Chamba State and in a ruined tank in Sirmor; a list of and discussion on various Gandhára sculptures, deposited in the Lahore Museum and elsewhere, and interesting notes on "Tile mosaics on the Lahore Palace," and on "the Shalimár Bágh at Delhi."

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

59. Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

[See page 189 of the Report for the year 1901-02.]

60. Ecclesiastical.

262. The various ecclesiastical institutions in the Punjab were noticed the report for the year 1901-02. There is nothing fresh to add.

61. Stationery.

263. The Punjab Administration depends on the Stationery Department, lcutta, for its requirements in this respect. The value of stationery issued to icers in the Punjab during the year aggregated Rs. 1,29,273, compared th Rs. 98,568 last year. The details are as follows :—Cost of printing paper s. 32,975, office stationery Rs. 95,778 and pad locks Rs. 520 against s. 49,585, Rs. 48,576 and Rs. 407 respectively in the previous year.

62. Government Press.

264. The following statement compares the income and expenditure th the value of work turned out during the years 1902-03 and 1903-04 :— **Income and Expenditure.**

Income.		Expenditure.		Value of work.	
1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1903-04.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
8,057	16,353	1,26,242	1,21,479	1,32,366	1,12,506

The income of the Press during the year under report was more than double at of the preceding year, the figures for the two years being respectively s. 8,057 and 16,353. The total expenditure during the year under report mounted to Rs. 1,21,479 against Rs. 1,26,242 in the previous year, or a ecrease of Rs. 4,763 as compared with the figures of the preceding year. he cost of work done by the Contractors for Government Printing for Departents and Offices during 1902-03 and 1903-04 was Rs. 69,731 and Rs. 49,165 espectively.